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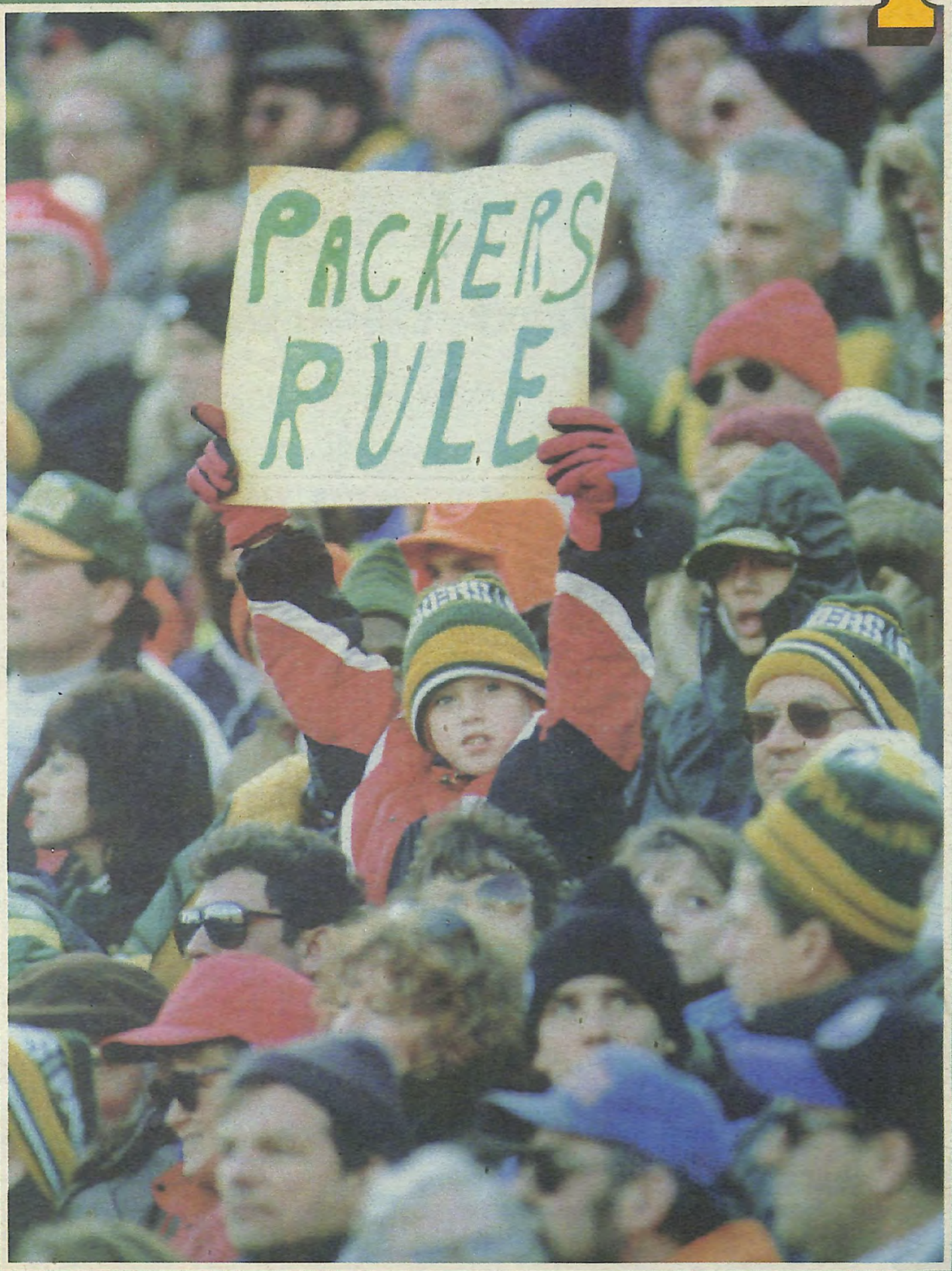

Packers roll past Bengals

McMahon signs on with Pack

Kelly getting job done

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Packer Report

December 9, 1995

ON THE COVER

The sign says it all as the Packers belted the Cincinnati Bengals 24-10 for their fourth straight win Sunday at Lambeau Field. The Packers head to Tampa Bay this Sunday night in control of the Central Division and on course for their first title since 1972. For more, see page 3.

Photo by: Mark A. Wallenfang

Big hurt 5

Reggie White pulled his left hamstring late in the game Sunday against the Bengals, but has been known to return from an injury in a hurry.

Insurance 8

The Packers signed veteran quarterback and an old nemesis in Jim McMahon. The move adds much-needed experience at quarterback behind Brett Favre.

Good month 14

The Packers haven't played many games in December throughout team history, but when they have, they've been successful, columnist Art Daley writes.

Color poster 16-17

Photographer Mark A. Wallenfang features Packers receiver/return specialist Charles Jordan.

Do the job 22-23

Veteran Joe Kelly has been to the Super Bowl. Now, he's filling in at middle linebacker for the injured Fred Strickland and helping the Packers achieve the ultimate.

Special season 28

In a 1989 season filled with "Majikal" moments and one-point victories, the Packers come through again by rallying past Tampa Bay.

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"Packer Trivia"

You can win "Packer Legends in Facts," a new book by Eric Goska that retails for $29.95 just by answering a Packer trivia question. Each winner will be mailed one copy of the book within three to four weeks from the time the question is printed. There will be a random drawing in case there is more than one correct answer. To be eligible to win, all answers must be postmarked no later than **one week** from the date on the cover of the *Packer Report*. The answer to each question will be published two issues after it is printed.

To enter, write your name, address, phone number and answer on a postcard and send to: Packer Report, "Trivia contest," 1317 Lombardi Access Road, Green Bay, WI 54304. Here's the question:

Who became head coach of the Packers after Curly Lambeau left Green Bay?

Answer to Nov. 18 question on page 15.

Photo by Mark A. Wallenfang

LeRoy Butler, left, and Sean Jones help Reggie White off the field.

Packers got the momentum

Ray Nitschke

Featured columnist

The Green Bay Packers have the momentum going for them and it really couldn't happen at a better time in the season.

It was just a great afternoon Sunday at Lambeau field. The sun was shining and the Packers came through with a solid performance by beating the Cincinnati Bengals, 24-10.

Football is a team game. It takes everybody contributing. In this game, the Packers had all facets going – offense, defense, special teams. They all did their jobs.

The Bengals came into Green Bay fired up. They played well in the first half and stood right in there. But the Packers continued to play good, solid, smart football. Green Bay had just one turnover and only three penalties for 15 yards. It was a good performance by the whole team.

In the second half, the Packers' defense realized it had to put more pressure on Bengals quarterback Jeff Blake and they did that. Other than one big play from Blake to Carl Pickens in the first half, the Packers kept the Bengals at bay.

Offensively Brett Favre threw for 339 yards and threw touchdowns to three different receivers. The Packers also ran the ball for another 95 yards, including 80 by running back Edgar Bennett. Favre is really mixing it up on offense. You can't take away from the performance of Mark Chmura, either. He stood out among the receivers by catching seven passes for 109 yards.

Reggie White again led the defense and made some big plays. Hopefully he'll be ready to go Sunday night at Tampa Bay after pulling his left hamstring late in the game.

You've got to give the Packer coaches credit, too. They made the adjustments when they had to and it was a different game in the second half. The Packers contained a very effective passing game and shut down Cincinnati's running game.

Overall, it's one of the better played games this season by the Packers as a team. It's a very impressive victory and they aren't showing any signs of letting up. They're playing well and it seems like they're getting better every game. Green Bay has been playing its best football in the last few weeks and this is when you want to be at your best.

The Packers aren't beating themselves. They're playing good, smart football and playing aggressive defense. To be 9-4 right now is a real credit to this team. They've still got three games to go in this season and their object is to get to the playoffs and host a playoff game in Green Bay. So far, they're on their way.

There were a lot of experts who didn't give the Packers any credit or any chance of winning at the beginning of the season, but the Packers are proving them wrong and showing them that they have a good football team. They have a great blend of experience and youth. It's good to see a good football team and it's something the fans really appreciate. Leaving the stadium on Sunday, I saw a lot of smiles and people who were really content and proud of their football team.

Let's keep the momentum going!

'Feels real good'

Packers put heat on Bengals for win

By Todd Korth

It's another win and another shot in the arm for the Green Bay Packers, despite Reggie White's ailing left hamstring.

The Packers stumbled in the first half but made some key defensive adjustments at halftime and rolled again behind Brett Favre, who threw for three touchdowns in leading the Packers to a 24-10 victory over the Cincinnati Bengals Sunday before 60,318 fans at Lambeau Field.

The Packers' fourth straight win came with a price, though. White pulled his hamstring late in the game while rushing Bengals quarterback Jeff Blake, but vowed to return as soon as possible and maybe this Sunday night against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers as the Packers continue their drive toward winning the Central Division title for the first time since 1972.

"Let's hope God can do his work again," said White after the game. "We're going to start getting some treatment and start doing some praying. All you people who are Christians out there start praying for me right now."

The win pushed the Packers to 9-4, the first time they've been five games above .500 since '72. It also was Green Bay's 15th win in the last 16 games at Lambeau Field and its 12th regular season win in the last 16.

"We have a chance now to keep it going," said Packers' coach Mike Holmgren, "but as I told them, as soon as you start relying on other people to keep it going, that's when they break your heart. We need to take care of our own business and the business at hand is to go down there and play (Tampa Bay)."

The Packers pulled a game-and-a-half ahead of the Chicago Bears, who were to play in the Pontiac Silverdome against the Detroit Lions on Monday night. Green Bay also improved its chances at gaining at least one home game and a possible bye in the first round of the NFL playoffs.

"It feels real good," said Packers' safety LeRoy Butler, who had a key interception to thwart a Cincinnati drive late in the game. "It feels even better than you can expect to Chris Jacke and 'Rut' (Ken Ruettgers) and some other guys who were here through the tough times when people didn't really expect us to win. I think people expect us to win now. That's the kind of attitude we're taking. We haven't been in this position in a long time. I think we're in a position now to be one of those elite teams. I think that's very important."

Favre showed he's one of the elite quarterbacks in the league with another impressive performance and a few more milestones. Favre completed 31 of 43 passes for 339 yards and became only the seventh quarterback in the history of the National Football League to throw for 30 or more touchdown passes in two or more seasons. Favre, who entered the game Sunday with a league-leading 28 touchdown passes and 98 overall, became only the third passer in Packer history to throw for more than 100 TDs.

Photo by Mark A. Wallenfang

Gilbert Brown (93) puts pressure on Bengals quarterback Jeff Blake Sunday at Lambeau Field.

Packers 24
Bengals 10

"It feels good," said Favre. "We all understand the long-range goals that we're trying to achieve. I think everyone would be lying if they said that we're looking forward a little bit. But our main objective is Tampa. We still control our own destiny. We just have to take these next three and win 'em."

The Packers turned it up in the third quarter against the Bengals offense by putting more pressure one Blake, who entered the game with an AFC-high 24 TD passes.

Blake finished by completing 19 of 35 passes for 202 yards, but just 40 in the second half. The Bengals also were held to just 31 yards rushing while the Packers racked up 434 yards in total offense.

Cincinnati (5-8) took a 10-3 lead with one minute left before halftime on Blake's 5-yard pass to Carl Pickens. Pickens' 16th touchdown of the season capped an 80-yard drive, including a 14-yard catch by tight end Tony McGee, who took the ball away from Butler.

Earlier, Blake hit Pickens on a 54-yard bomb that set up a 28-yard field goal by Doug Pelfrey.

"We knew this team could pretty much do something like that," said Packers linebacker Wayne Simmons. "We held them to one big play in the first half. (At halftime) we came in and we regrouped. We said, 'Nothing's wrong. Understand guys nothing's wrong.' We understood that this team can do things like this, but we got to go out there and increase the pressure. Do what we're doing and do it better."

The second half was a different story. The Packers put pressure on Blake by basically stepping it up.

"At halftime we heard some pretty bad things," said Butler. "We just wanted to get out there and get some turnovers, and just be a good defense.

"The thing about this team is we can take criticism. When the coach tells you you're not playing well, you just have to just swallow it and say 'you're right' and just go out there and do it."

The Packers tied the game at 10 just before halftime when Favre rifled a 13-yard pass to Mark Ingram in the end zone. It was a pass that somehow managed to whistle threw three defenders and into Ingram's hands.

While the defense held the Bengals to just six offensive plays in the third quarter, the Packers' offense put together a 61-yard drive and took a 17-10 lead on Favre's 15-yard screen pass to Edgar Bennett, who dived into the right corner of the end zone to score.

After the Packers held the Bengals in three plays on the next series, Green Bay drove 60 yards and scored on Favre's 8-yard pass to a wide-open Mark Chmura for the final score.

"The difference in the game was the third quarter," said Bengals coach Dave Shula, "where, the Packers, after we were able to hold them down the first time around, were able to capitalize on the fact that our offense couldn't get things going."

The Bengals' defense did, though, when cornerback Corey Sawyer intercepted Favre's pass at Cincinnati's 14 and returned it 61 yards down the right sideline to the Packers' 25.

But the Packers defense dug in. White sacked Blake for a loss of six yards and safety Mike Prior blitzed on the next play to sack Blake and force a fumble that was recovered by the Bengals.

On a fourth-and-20, Blake dropped back to pass and saw nothing by White, who blew past tackle Joe Walter. But the All-Pro defensive end pulled up and wasn't able to get to Blake who was picked off by Butler at the 7.

"With Fritz, when things get a little panicky, he wants to come right after them, and that's what we did," said Simmons.

Jacke opened the scoring with a 41-yard field goal late in the first quarter, Jacke's 11th straight field goal.

SCORING SUMMARY

Cincinnati Bengals	0	10	0	0	10
Green Bay Packers	3	7	7	7	24

Packers, 1, 2:48, Jacke 41-yard field goal (11-66, 6:38) 0-3

Bengals, 2, 9:52, Pelfrey 28-yard field goal (9-81, 3:38) 3-3

Bengals, 2, 1:00, Pickens 5-yard pass from Blake (Pelfrey, kick) (10-80, 4:15) 10-3

Packers, 2, 0:06, Ingram 13-yard pass from Favre (Jacke, kick) (7-65, 0:54) 10-10

Packers, 3, 5:48, Bennett 14-yard pass from Favre (Jacke, kick) (11-61, 5:11) 10-17

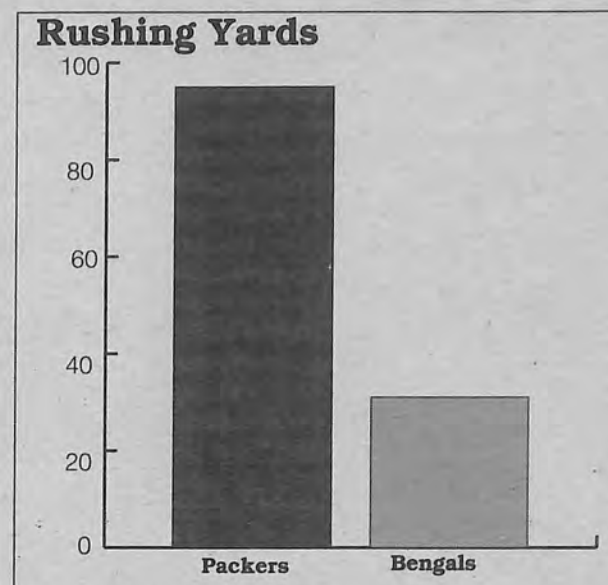
Packers, 4, 14:12, Chmura 8-yard pass from Favre (Jacke, kick) (9-60, 5:00) 10-24

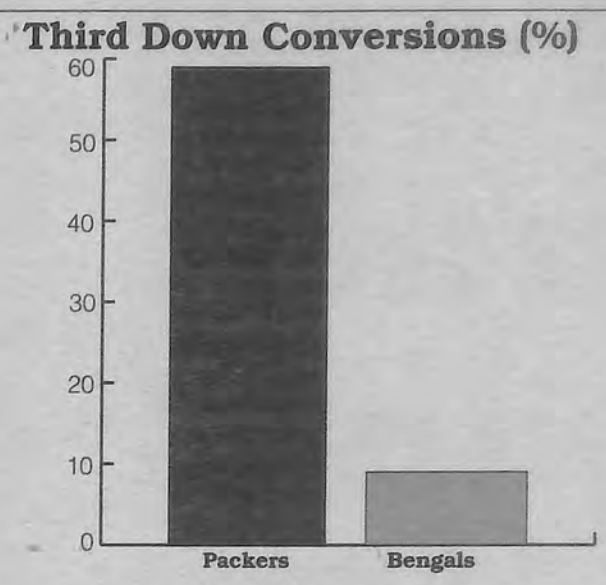
Attendance: 60,318; tickets distributed: 60,790; unused: 472; time 2:54

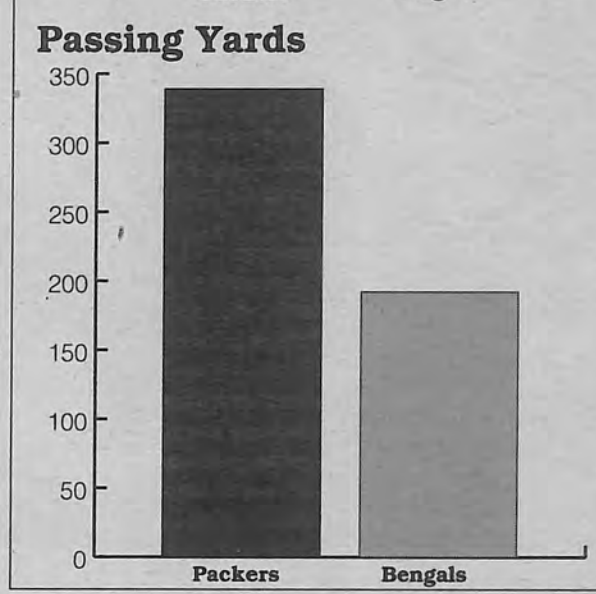
Weather: Temperature 32; humidity 82; wind W 14 mph; wind chill 22

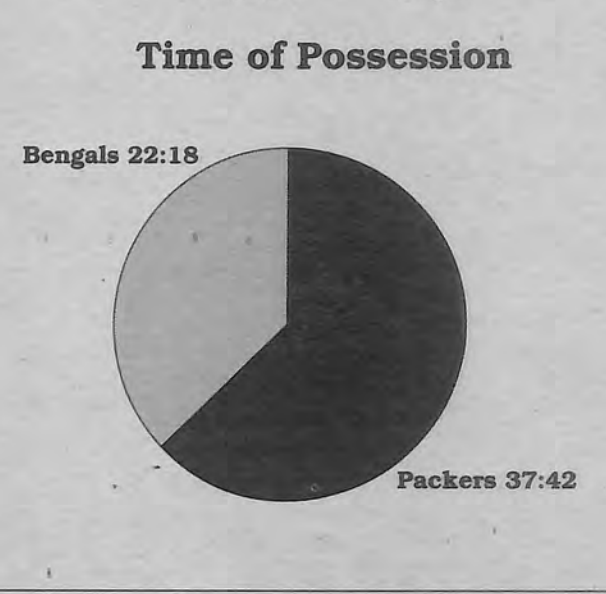
FINAL TEAM STATISTICS

	Bengals	Packers
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	12	23
By Rushing	3	4
By Passing	9	18
By Penalty	0	1
THIRD DOWN EFFICIENCY	1-11-9%	10-17-59%
FOURTH DOWN EFFICIENCY	1-4-25%	1-2-50%
TOTAL NET YARDS	223	434
Total Offensive Plays (inc. time thrown passing)	52	74
Average gain per offensive play	4.3	5.9
NET YARDS RUSHING	31	95
Total Rushing Plays	13	30
Average gain per rushing play	2.4	3.2
NET YARDS PASSING	192	339
Times thrown — yards lost attempting to pass	3-10	1-0
Gross yards passing	202	339
PASS ATTEMPTS-COMPLETIONS-HAD INT.	36-19-2	43-31-1
Average gain per pass play (inc. # thrown passing)	4.9	7.7
KICKOFFS-In End Zone-Touchbacks	3-0-0	5-1-0
PUNTS Number and Average	5-42	4-34.3
Had Blocked	0	0
FGs-PATs Had Blocked	0-0	0-0
TOTAL RETURN YARDAGE (Not Including Kickoffs)	61	88
No. and Yards Punt Returns	0-0	3-14
No. and Yards Kickoff Returns	5-90	3-71
No. and Yards Interception Returns	1-61	2-74
PENALTIES Number and Yards	5-25	3-15
FUMBLES Number and Lost	1-0	1-0
TOUCHDOWNS	1	3
Rushing	0	0
Passing	1	3
EXTRA POINTS Made-Attempts	1-1	3-3
FIELD GOALS Made-Attempts	1-1	1-1
SAFETIES	0	0
FINAL SCORE	10	24
TIME OF POSSESSION	22:18	37:42









GREEN BAY PACKERS

RUSHING	Att.	Net Yds.	Avg.	Long Gain	TD
Bennett	23	80	3.5	14	0
Favre	6	15	2.5	11	0
Levens	1	0	0.0	0	0

PASSING	Att.	Com.	Yds.	TKD	Yds.	TD	LG	Had Int.
Favre	43	31	339	1	0	3	29	1

PASS RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Chmura	7	109	29	1
Bennett	7	50	14	1
Morgan	5	52	25	0
Brooks	4	34	17	0
Levens	4	24	10	0
Ingram	2	24	13	1
Freeman	1	28	28	0
Jackson	1	18	18	0

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Teague	1	74	74	0
Butler	1	0	0	0

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	G
Hentrich	4	137	34.3	2	1	40

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
Freeman	3	2	14	7	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
Jervey	2	0	34	25	0
Freeman	1	0	37	37	0

CINCINNATI BENGALS

RUSHING	Att.	Net Yds.	Avg.	Long Gain	TD
Green	7	20	2.9	11	0
Blake	2	9	4.5	6	0
Bieniemy	3	1	0.3	3	0
Cothran	1	1	1.0	1	0

PASSING	Att.	Com.	Yds.	TKD	Yds.	TD	LG	Had Int.
Blake	35	19	202	3	10	1	54	2
Dunn	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

PASS RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Pickens	7	90	54	1
Scott	5	45	12	0
Bieniemy	3	19	11	0
McGee	2	31	17	0
Green	1	11	11	0
Dunn	1	6	6	0

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Sawyer	1	61	61	0

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG
Johnson	5	210	42.0	0	1	47

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
Sawyer	0	2	0	0	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
Hill	4	0	93	29	0
Collins	1	0	-3	-3	0

GREEN BAY PACKERS
Unofficial

	T	A	SK	YL	INT.	PD	FR
Newsome	6	0	0.0	0.0	0	1	0
Simmons	5	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Evans	4	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Brown	3	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Prior	2	1	1.0	9.0	0	0	0
Jones	0	3	0.5	0.5	0	0	0
Butler	2	0	0.0	0.0	1	1	0
Jurkovic	2	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Koonce	2	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Kuberski	1	1	0.0	0.0	0	1	0
White	1	1	1.5	6.5	0	1	0
LaBounty	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
McGill	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Mullen	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Teague	1	0	0.0	0.0	1	1	0
Unidentified	0	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Kelly	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	1	0

CINCINNATI BENGALS
Unofficial

	T	A	SK	YL	INT.	PD	FR
Tovar	9	3	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Walker	7	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Collins	5	4	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Jones	6	0	1.0	0.0	0	0	0
Sawyer	5	1	0.0	0.0	1	1	0
McDonald	3	3	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Williams	1	5	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Unidentified	3	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Wilkinson	3	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Stallings	2	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Copeland	2	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Jones	2	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Rucker	2	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Shelling	2	0	0.0	0.0	0	1	0
Smith	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0

KEY: T=Tackle, A=Assist, SK=Sack, YL=Yards Lost
INT.=Interceptions, PD=Pass Defense, FR=Fumble Recovery

McMahon will help Pack

Interesting sight at the Cleveland Browns game a couple weeks ago. Jim McMahon, then a Browns quarterback, playing catch with Packer tight end coach Andy Reid.

I was standing with former Cleveland tackle Doug Dieken, who now works with the Browns radio network. When McMahon was within earshot, Dieken asked him if that was some kind of tryout. McMahon just smiled and said, "You never know."

We all know the rest of the story. While I don't want to rehash yesterday's news, this is the first opportunity to address the acquistion of McMahon in the *Packer Report.*

Great move, and fortunately for some of you, you don't have to read some of the knucklehead attitudes that were expressed in the local press.

One article in particular thought it was appalling that Jim McMahon was actually a Green Bay Packer. How could they bring in a guy who'd done nothing but beat them in the past.

Larry McCarren

Featured columnist

That's exactly why they brought him in. The man is a winner. As a starter, he's the winningest active quarterback in the NFL, coming out on top almost 70 percent of the time. Should we hold it against him because he beat us as a Bear, an Eagle, and a Viking, too. No, we shouldn't resent that. We should respect it. Thankfully, the Packers are run by folks who understand that.

Of course, when you talk Jim McMahon in these parts, the Charles Martin incident gets mentioned in the same breath. Such was the case in the afore-mentioned column. It made out like the cheapest of shots, and they don't come any cheaper, was a bright moment in Packer history. To tell you the truth, that late hit is an embarrassment to anyone who ever wore the Green and Gold.

It was nothing more than a thug trying to injure one of the game's real players. It was basically an admission that, "We stink. We can't beat you, so we'll try to hurt you after the whistle." It made the Packers look like a team without an ounce of class or any of the other qualities that have made the organization the envy of the entire league.

The Jim McMahons of the NFL are what make it great. They fight, they play hurt and they win. McMahon has done all three time and time again.

Although he certainly has and should be commended for a "winning" attitude, that's not the primary rason McMahon wound up in Green Bay. He can still throw, and while the prospects of an injured Brett Favre aren't among any Packer fan's favorite thoughts, McMahon has already shown he could be effective in this offense.

Although there was reluctance in some quarters (media know-nothings) to accept Jim McMahon. It's time to welcome him with open arms.

If Brett went down, he knows what it takes to win. Even if Brett is injury-free, McMahon will be good for this team. Check him out before the game. He's running around pumping up the offense, defense, you name it.

In the NFL, it's not, "If you can't beat him, join him," but it is, "If you can't beat him, acquire him."

White hoping to play at Tampa Bay

By W. Keith Roerdink

With just under seven minutes left in the game, Packer safety LeRoy Butler intercepted a Jeff Blake pass in the end zone on fourth and 19, effectively ending any realistic chance the Bengals had of pulling out a victory.

But as Butler jumped up in the stands to celebrate with the Packer faithful, a quiet came over them that had nothing to do with his takeaway. The reaction was for defensive end Reggie White who was back at the line of scrimmage holding his left leg before falling to the ground.

White who had scared fans, teammates and coaches alike earlier in the year when he went down with a knee injury in Minnesota, pulled his hamstring on the play. While the severity of the injury remains to be seen, if the past is any indicator, White will play Sunday night at Tampa Bay.

"He says he'll be fine and I hope by God, he is. He's two for two on those big ones since I've been here," said defensive coordinator Fritz Shurmur, referring to White's recovery after the knee injury and last season's miraculous healing from an elbow injury. In both cases, White did not miss a game, keeping his string of 166 intact.

"I knew I probably pulled it but I freaked out," White said. "I had never done this before. It's frustrating, but I'm going to believe in God again that I won't have to miss any (games). It's God's grace that I've been able to play as many as I have injury free."

White was having his typical game before the injury, he had hit Blake for a sack and one-half, raising his career total to 157.5 and also batted down a pass. Had he not pulled his hamstring, he was sure he would have had two and a half on the day. Coach Mike Holmgren is convinced he'll be doing more of the same at Tampa.

"I have every reason to believe that when he tells me he's going to be OK, he'll be OK," Holmgren said. "He's like Lazarus, he always comes back and rises from the dead. He's a great player."

Mac: It was 1986 when Packer defensive end Charles Martin picked up then Chicago Bear quarterback Jim McMahon and slammed him to the ground after the play had stopped. That action drew a two-game suspension from then NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle.

Martin was cut from the team the following year. Paul Tagliabue took over for Rozelle in 1989. And now, nine years later, McMahon joined the Green and Gold on the sideline as Brett Favre's backup.

With the signing of McMahon on Nov. 28, Green Bay added a winning veteran to the fold for what they hope will be a run into the playoffs. The No. 9 and the sunglasses remain, but the attitude of the quarterback who once mooned a helicopter in New Orleans the week preceeding the Bears 1985 Super Bowl victory has mellowed. Apparently the effect he has on Packer fans appears to have as well.

"I heard a little of both (booing and cheering)," McMahon said of entering Lambeau Field. "It was a little strange coming out of this end, but it's not going to bother me one way or the other."

McMahon, who was announced prior to the game as Favre's backup, ahead of T.J. Rubley, said he felt comfortable with about 15-20 plays of the offense.

"It's nice that they have confidence in me," McMahon said.

As for the fans, a 9-4 mark will do wonders for their temperament. When McMahon exited the Packers complex and headed to the players parking lot, he did so to cheers and applause.

Closing in: Halfback Edgar Bennett continued his march toward 1,000 yards with another workmanlike performance. With 80 yards rushing he increased his total to 888 and needs to average just 37.3 yards in the Packers' final three games to eclipse that milestone. With

Photo by Mark A. Wallenfang

Jim McMahon sported the Green and Gold Sunday as the Packers' backup quarterback.

Sunday's numbers, he moved past Ted Fritsch into 10th place on the all-time list with 2,275 career yards. His seven catches for 50 yards leave him just one catch short of tying former tight end Ed West's 202 grabs for tenth in career receptions. He also is just 10 yards shy of besting last year's receiving total of 546.

Favre-tastic: Brett Favre reached another plateau in Packer history becoming only the third Packer quarter-

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Notes

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back to throw for more than 100 touchdowns. His three tosses give him 101 for his career and place him behind Bart Starr's 152 and Lynn Dickey's 133.

His second touchdown of the day, a screen pass to Bennett was his 30th of the season and makes him only the seventh player in NFL history to have two 30-plus touchdown seasons. Only four of the six others have done it in consecutive years, like Favre.

The record setting day comes on the heels of a much-talked about story in USA Today's Dec. 1 where Favre talked about his value to the Packers in relation to the other top quarterbacks in the NFL.

"Troy Aikman's great, but they don't ask him to win. He can sit on the bench. Dallas is 0-3 without Emmitt (Smith). Steve Young? Great quarterback, but the 49ers won without him. It's a great system with a lot of talent. Here, they ask me to win the game. They live and die with what I do." Favre was quoted as saying.

While those statements may be true, the article painted the young slinger as more arrogant than confident.

"He's not as he appears to be in that article and those of you that have talked to him and know him know that," Holmgren said to the post-game media. "He's a confident young man and playing very well right now."

Said Favre: "Sure I'm confident and I expect to win and I expect to play well and I think all of you will agree that when I play bad, more than likely we lose and when I play well, I think all of you will agree that more than likely we win.

"That's basically what I said... I think some things got, not confused, but blown out of proportion."

Payback time: After not catching a single ball in last week's thumping of Tampa Bay, tight end Mark Chmura had a talk with Favre, one of his closest friends on the team.

"I said what's your deal? I've been taking you out to dinner and all this and you don't treat me right," Chmura kidded.

Favre must have taken it to heart because he connected with the 6-foot-5, 250-pounder seven times for 109 yards, including a 29-yard touchdown.

"It was just one of those days," Chmura said. "I think they made it a point to take Robert (Brooks) out of the game a little and double him a little and it left other guys open, me being one of them."

His totals surpassed his previous career best (5-101) which he set in an Oct. 22 win over the Vikings. That week was also the first time that Pro Bowl tight end Keith Jackson donned a Packers uniform. If Chmura's playing time seemed in jeopardy, the addition of Jackson has only helped himself and the offense flourish. Chmura remains the starter, but the team has also been using more two-tight end formations and working Jackson into the offensive scheme.

"I wasn't sure what (the coaching staff) was going to do, but Keith has been a great help to me," Chmura said. "It was kind of awkward at first, but we realize that we're after the same thing. He doesn't have a Super Bowl ring, there's a lot of guys on this team who don't and we're all after the same goal. Egos get put aside and you play as a team."

Extra Points: Butler's team leading fourth interception was a welcome sight, considering the safety had two plays earlier in the game which looked like certain picks, but weren't. The first had Butler covering Bengal tight end Tony McGee.

"You gotta make that play...when I broke on it I said to myself, "Yes!" Butler said. "But he stuck his hand between mine and caught it... I felt like the goat."

Later in the game, Butler seemed to have another sure steal, but came up short on his dive as the pass fell incomplete.

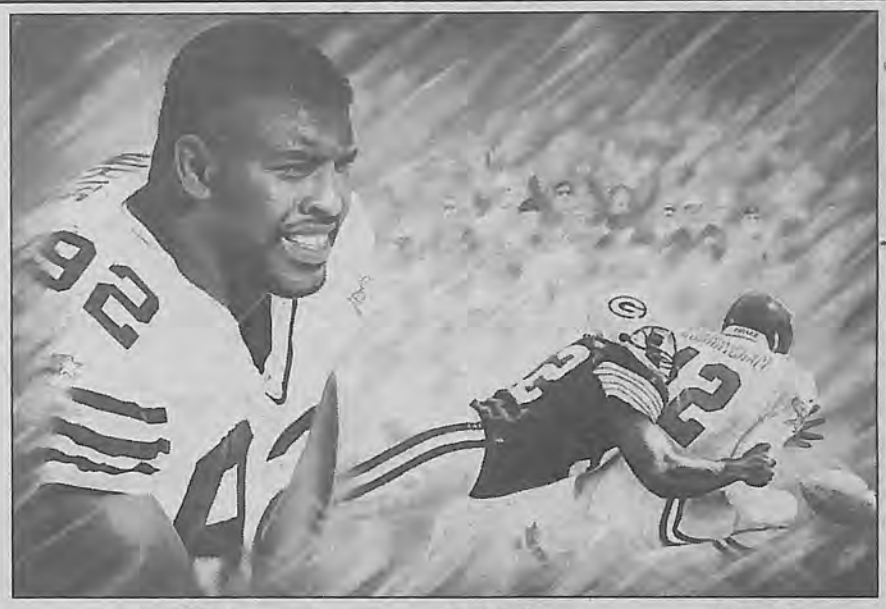
■ Safety George Teague also got his hands on the ball after missing one earlier in the game. With 1:14 remaining, Teague stole Blake's fourth down pass at the Packer's 22 and returned it 74 yards.

Photo by Mark A. Wallenfang

Mark Chmura had seven catches.

"That's always my thinking. When I get an interception I want to run it as far as I can," Teague said. "I know it's the end of the game, but it's never been in my personality to run out of bounds if I don't have to."

Keith Roerdink is a freelance writer from Sheboygan.



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Defense responds to speech

Defensive coordinator gives team an earful of advice, boost at halftime

By Brett Christopherson

It's amazing how a few choice words from the coaching staff can turn a game headed for a nail-biter into a comfortable and resounding victory. Just ask Green Bay Packer strong safety LeRoy Butler.

With the score deadlocked at 10 apiece at the half against a surprisingly tough Cincinnati Bengal team, there was no question Green Bay needed a bit of a boost to help them get past their Ohio rivals. And as Butler puts it, they definitely got all the help they needed – though it probably wasn't what he, or the defense, wanted to hear.

"At halftime, we heard some pretty bad things," he said with a smile when asked how the Packer defense turned up the heat on the Bengal offense in the second half. "We just wanted to get out there and get some turnovers and just be a good defense."

Shurmur

The speech the Packer defense was treated to came straight from the mouth of defensive coordinator Fritz Shurmur who felt his unit needed to step it up a bit or risk losing a game that should easily have been won.

"We just talked a little bit about maybe challenging the receivers a little more," Shurmur said. "We just had to do it better as a group, and you know, I think they went out and did it, too – and they played pretty well."

No question about it, the defense was simply dominating in the second half. After yielding 191 total yards of offense to the Bengals in the first half, the Packers absolutely stuffed Cincinnati in the second half, holding them to a mere 32 yards as Green Bay held one of the league's best offensive attacks to only 223 total yards by the game's end.

"They (the defense) played a good football game today," head coach Mike Holmgren said. "(Bengal quarterback) Jeff Blake is a fine player. He impressed me today. They have excellent receivers, as you know, and they made a couple of long plays. But our defense did a nice job, especially in the "red zone."

Photo by Mark A. Wallenfang

LeRoy Butler celebrates with fans after making a key interception late in the game.

It was no secret that in order for Green Bay to be successful, they had to shut down a Cincinnati offense which came in averaging 23.8 points a game, 9th best in the league, and was No. 1 in touchdown percentage (58.3%) on possessions inside the opponents' 20-yard line. The main weapon behind the Bengals' potent offense is Blake who had thrown 24 touchdown passes heading into Sunday's game. Blake has emerged as one of the NFL's best quarterbacks whose signature play is the bomb which he completes with remarkable regularity.

Blake proved just how good he is, in the first half at least, as he completed 13 of 18 for 161 yards and a touchdown to help the Bengals stay even with the Pack. But after a few minor adjustments, the Packer defense shut him down completely in the second half as Blake hit on just 6 of 17 for only 40 yards and 2 interceptions.

"He's a short quarterback with a rifle arm," Butler said about Blake, who was sacked three times. "The first half, we kind of played conservative. The second half, we just turned those guys (the defensive front) loose, and I really don't think he liked that pressure in the second half because a few times, he was lying on the ground."

"The things that they were doing, we picked up on," cornerback Doug Evans added. "We started covering a little bit better than we did in the first half and played sound defense."

Just as big as stopping Blake was the fact that, for the third week in a row, Green Bay has been able to shut down its opponent's running game after limiting the Bengals to just 31 yards on 13 carries. During the past three games, teams have averaged only 46 yards on the ground against Green Bay.

"The front is playing extremely well and the linebackers are playing well," Shurmur said. "We go in hoping we can control the running game with our front seven. If we can do that, that allows us to keep everybody we need in coverage. That's been the case pretty much the last three weeks."

The most promising aspect of the defense came early in the fourth quarter with the Packers leading 24-10. After a Brett Favre interception which was returned 61 yards to the Packer 25, Green Bay harassed Blake until the series finally ended on a fourth-down interception by Butler in the end zone, eliminating any kind of momentum Cincinnati was trying to build.

"It seems like sometimes, that's what our defense thrives on," Evans said about the stand. "We don't really want to get into positions like that, but when the pressure's on, we feel like someone needs to step up and make plays, and the guys did it and responded well."

After watching the defense step up in recent weeks, Shurmur hopes it continues to respond well and make even bigger plays with only three games remaining and a division championship in sight.

"I think we're getting better and that's what we're trying to do," he said. "I sense our guys doing that."

With an offense playing as well as it has been, it's scary just how good the Packers are becoming.

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Jimmy Mac joins Pack

Old nemesis added for insurance

McMahon

Johnson

By Todd Korth

The depth at quarterback got a little deeper and a lot more experienced and cocky last week, but that's OK with Mike Holmgren. The Packers' head coach is sleeping a lot better.

Green Bay added some insurance at a key position for the stretch drive and the playoffs by signing an old nemesis in Jim McMahon.

That's right, McMahon. The charismatic, "punky QB" who was hated by Packer fans while he played with the Chicago Bears from 1982-88 and led them to a Super Bowl – headbands and all – in 1985.

The same guy who in 1991 was ready to join the Packers but wasn't offered a deal because Packer fans allegedly were turning in their season tickets.

The same guy, like him or not, who boasts a 67-30 (.691) record as a starting quarterback, the best among active QBs.

"He didn't have to do this," said Holmgren. "He certainly doesn't need the money, I don't think. Really, I thanked him for doing this when he came in today.

"There's no indictment on T.J. (Rubley) or Doug (Pederson) or anything else. It's just from my own standpoint, I would sleep a lot better if I knew I had some experience there."

McMahon was claimed on waivers by the Packers on Nov. 28 from the Cleveland Browns.

In order to make room for McMahon, the Packers' fourth quarterback on the team's 53-man roster and sixth quarterback on the payroll, Green Bay released running back LeShon Johnson. Johnson, a second-year pro, started the season on the reserve/physically unable to perform list after tearing ligaments in his knee last December. After getting one carry in each of his first two games back for a total of minus 2 yards, he had been inactive for each of the Packers' last four games.

"I believe he's a good football player," said Holmgren of Johnson. "It wasn't a very popular thing to do in the building, but we've run out of choices. I thought we needed to do this at quarterback."

Besides Brett Favre, Rubley and Pederson, whom the Packers signed on Nov. 22, the other quarterbacks include rookie Mike McCoy and Ty Detmer. McCoy is on the practice squad and Detmer, who tore ligaments in his thumb on Nov. 5, is on injured reserve and will be out for the rest of the season.

"There's a good reason to do all of these things, trust me," Holmgren said. "They've all been thought through very carefully. I think you had better get that position in order otherwise you could run into problems."

McMahon talked with Green Bay in July about joining the Packers, but decided to sign with Cleveland because he felt the Browns had a good shot at going to the Super Bowl this season.

"In fact, I was talking to Mike two weeks ago when they (the Packers) came to Cleveland about that decision," said McMahon. "I told him it was the wrong one, but I had made it.

"These guys have a chance. I mean they're 8-4. Leading the division. I'm looking forward to it."

McMahon, 36, didn't play in any games for the Browns this season and played in only one game while at Arizona last year. He served mainly as the Browns inactive third quarterback before demanded that he be released on Nov. 27. Prior to his stop in Arizona, McMahon played for the Minnesota Vikings (1993), Philadelphia Eagles (1990-92), San Diego Chargers (1989) and Chicago.

He said he didn't know what went wrong at Cleveland. He signed with the Browns on Aug. 8, was released on Aug. 27 and re-signed on Oct. 4.

"They've got a hell of a lot of talent there," McMahon said. "It's the most talent I've ever been around. They just couldn't seem to get it done. I'm glad it's in the past and I just look forward to the opportunity here and hopefully we'll continue winning."

McMahon said he is in the best condition he has ever been in as a pro, but was not sure of what's in store after this season.

"I'm just going to try to get through this year," he said. "My wife (Nancy) and I were talking of maybe this being my last year. But I still feel my body is healthy. I'm throwing the ball as good as I've thrown it since I've been in the pros. I still feel I can play another couple of years."

Said Holmgren, "I'm asking him to learn enough plays so if I had to stick him in the game he could be efficient and play, and play well."

Over his 113-game NFL career, McMahon has completed 1,488 of 2,568 passes (57.9%) for 18,103 yards and 100 TDs. He has a career rating of 78.1.

Johnson, a third-round draft choice in 1994, carried 26 times for 99 yards and caught 13 passes for 168 yards as a rookie.

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23b.	**PACKERS ADULT "BOOTIES"** (Adult Slippers, 100% Bulky Knit, Green & Gold w/Helmet Patch)	14.95		
23c.	**BASEBALL STYLE CAPS** (Many Different Styles In Wool & Cotton For Any Day)	14.95-9.95		
23d.	**WINTER STOCKING HATS** (100% Knit Black w/G Logo also Green & Gold w/Packers)	9.95-7.95		
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24a.	**WOOL PENNANTS** ("Throwback" Style w/Raised Letters, Embroidery, Authentic Look)	14.95		
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24d.	**CAR MINI-PENNANTS** (5"x12" Plastic, 2 Sided, Suction Cups. For Car, Van, Home…[Badgers Too!])	$3.95		
24e.	**PENNANTS** (3 Styles — 11 NFL Champions, G Logo, Packers [Badgers Too!])	3.00		
24f.	**PENNANT COVERS** (Clear Plastic Sleeves Form Fit Over Pennant. Tack Cover Not Pennant)	1.00		
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32a.	**MacARTHUR™ BATH TOWELS** (Terry Cloth, Washable. For Locker, Kitchen, Bath…)	9.95		
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34c.	**LICENSE PLATES** (Aluminum Metal Never Rusts. Go Pack!)	4.95		
34d.	**LICENSE PLATES** (Plastic Plates Never Rusts Either. [Badgers Too!])	2.95		
34e.	**MINI-LICENSE PLATES** (Aluminum Metal For Motorcycles/Bikes)	2.50		
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Packer stats

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

(unofficial through twelve games)

Player	Total Tackles	Solo	Asst.	Sacks/Yards	Int./Yards	Fum. Rec.	For. Fum.	Pass Def.
Butler	80	63	17	1.0/11.0	3/76	0	1	7
Evans	69	55	14	1.0/9.0	2/24	0	1	23
Simmons	68	55	13	3.0/22.0	0/0	1	0	5
Koonce	60	39	21	1.0/7.0	1/12	0	0	3
Newsome	53	38	15	0.0/0.0	0/3	0	0	10
Strickland	45	33	12	0.0/0.0	0/0	0	0	1
Teague	44	30	14	0.0/0.0	1/26	1	0	12
White	38	28	10	11.0/95.5	0/0	0	2	3
Jones	37	23	14	5.0/34.5	0/0	1	1	0
Jurkovic	29	23	6	0.0/0.0	0/0	0	0	0
Prior	26	17	9	0.0/0.0	1/9	0	0	4
McGill	23	14	9	0.0/0.0	0/0	0	0	0
Holland	16	9	7	1.5/7.0	0/0	0	0	1
Wilkins	15	12	3	3.0/14.0	0/0	0	0	1
Gi. Brown	15	11	4	0.0/0.0	0/0	0	0	0
Kuberski	7	4	3	1.0/5.0	0/0	0	0	0
LaBounty	6	6	0	2.0/13.0	0/0	0	0	0
Kelly	6	5	1	0.0/0.0	0/0	0	0	0
Crawford	5	5	0	0.0/0.0	0/0	0	0	0
Harris	2	1	1	0.0/0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Mullen	1	1	0	0.0/0.0	0/0	0	0	0

Touchdowns: Jones 1, fumble recovery in end zone vs. Minnesota (10/22); **Special teams tackles:** Wilson 15 (10-5), Crawford 14 (12-2), Prior 10 (9-1), Jervey 10 (6-4), Mickens 10 (6-4), Harris 9 (6-3) Dorsett 9 (4-5), Thomason 7 (6-1), Williams 4 (1-3), McGill 3 (3-0), LaBounty 3 (2-1), Hentrich 2 (2-0), Chmura 2 (1-1), Jordan 2 (1-1), Kelly 2 (1-1), Mullen 2 (1-1), Levens 2 (0-2), Wilner 1 (1-0), Winters 1 (1-0), Bartrum 1 (0-1), Evans 1 (0-1); **Special teams forced fumbles:** Chmura 1, at Dallas (10/8); Jervey 1, at Chicago (9/11); **Misc. tackles:** Dotson 3, Brooks 2, Favre 2, Levens 2, Bennett 1, Freeman 1, Galbreath 1, Jackson 1, Winters 1.

PASSING	Att.	Cmp.	Yds.	Cmp. %	Yds./Att.	TD	TD%	Int.	Int. %	Long	Sack/Lost	Rating
Favre	419	257	3,180	61.3	7.59	28	6.7	11	2.6	99t	28/191	96.2
Detmer	16	8	81	50.0	5.06	1	6.3	1	6.3	25	0/0	59.6
Rubley	6	4	39	66.7	6.50	0	0.0	1	16.7	17	0/0	45.1
TEAM	441	269	3,300	61.0	7.48	29	6.6	13	2.9	99t	28/191	93.7
OPPONENTS	439	248	2,803	56.5	6.38	21	4.8	8	1.8	69t	30/218	84.1

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WON 8, LOST 4	OPPONENT	ATT.
Sept. 3, L, 17-14	St. Louis	60,104
Sept. 11, W, 27-24	at Chicago	64,855
Sept. 17, W, 14-6	New York Giants	60,117
Sept. 24, W, 24-14	at Jacksonville	66,744
Oct. 8, L, 34-24	at Dallas	64,806
Oct. 15, W, 30-21	Detroit	60,302
Oct. 22, W, 38-21	Minnesota	60,332
Oct. 29, L, 24-16	Detroit	73,462
Nov. 5, L, 27-24	Minnesota	62,839
Nov. 12, W, 35-28	Chicago	59,996
Nov. 19, W, 31-20	at Cleveland	55,388
Nov. 26 , W, 35-13	Tampa Bay	59,218
Dec. 3	Cincinnati	
Dec. 10	at Tampa Bay	
Dec. 16	at New Orleans	
Dec. 24	Pittsburgh	

	Packers	Opponents
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	255	219
Rushing	68	73
Passing	171	136
Penalty	16	10
3rd Down: Made/Att	80/165	53/159
3rd Down Pct.	48.5	33.3
4th Down: Made/Att.	4/5	9/18
4th Down Pct.	80.0	50.0
POSSESSION AVG.	31:19	28:41
TOTAL NET YARDS	4,214	3,791
Avg. Per Game	351.2	315.9
Total Plays	780	761
Avg. Per Play	5.4	5.0
NET YARDS RUSHING	1,105	1,206
Avg. Per Game	92.1	100.5
Total Rushes	311	292
NET YARDS PASSING	3,109	2,585
Avg. Per Game	259.1	215.4
Sacked/Yards Lost	28/191	30/218
Gross Yards	3,300	2,803
Att./Completions	441/269	439/248
Completion Pct.	61.0	56.5
Had Intercepted	13	8
PUNTS/AVERAGE	53/41.1	70/42.4
NET PUNTING AVG.	53/35.0	70/35.1
PENALTIES/YARDS	69/487	76/547
FUMBLES/BALL LOST	17/5	10/3
TOUCHDOWNS	38	30
Rushing	8	9
Passing	29	21
Returns	1	0

SCORE BY PERIODS	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	OT	PTS.
TEAM	66	108	61	77	0	312
OPPONENTS	34	79	62	74	0	249

SCORING	TD	RU	PA	Rt	K-PAT	FG	S	PTS.
Jacke	0	0	0	0	32/32	12/16	0	68
Brooks	10	0	10	0	0	0	0	60
Levens	7	3	4	0				42
Chmura	5	0	5	0				32
Bennett	5	2	3	0				30
Favre	3	3	0	0				18
Morgan	3	0	3	0				18
Hentrich	0	0	0	0	5/5	3/5	0	14
Ingram	2	0	2	0				12
Jordan	2	0	2	0				12
Jones	1	0	0	1				6
TEAM	38	8	29	0	37/37	15/21	0	312
OPPONENTS	30	9	21	0	30/30	13/14	0	249

2-Pt. Conversions: Chmura, TEAM 1-1, OPPONENTS 0-0

Sacks: White 11.0, Jones 5.0, Simmons 3.0, Wilkins 3.0, LaBounty 2.0, Holland 1.5, Butler 1.0, Evans 1.0, Koonce 1.0, Kuberski 1.0, Prior 0.5. Team 30.0, Opponents 28.0

RUSHING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG	TD
Bennett	237	808	3.4	20	2
Favre	29	145	5.0	40	3
Levens	27	95	3.5	22	3
Henderson	6	32	5.3	17	0
Brooks	4	21	5.3	21	0
Rubley	2	6	3.0	6	0
Detmer	3	3	1.0	5	0
Johnson	2	-2	-1.0	-2	0
Ingram	1	-3	-3.0	-3	0
TEAM	311	1,105	3.6	40	6
OPPONENTS	292	1,206	4.1	37	9

RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG	TD
Brooks	73	1,086	14.9	99t	10
Bennett	44	486	11.0	35	3
Chmura	37	463	12.5	33	5
Levens	35	306	8.7	27	4
Ingram	32	379	11.8	29	2
Morgan	21	243	11.6	29t	3
Jordan	7	117	16.7	35	2
Jackson	7	63	9.0	22	0
Freeman	4	54	13.5	19	0
Mickens	3	50	16.7	24	0
Thomason	3	32	10.7	15	0
Henderson	3	21	7.0	9	0
TEAM	269	3,300	12.3	99t	29
OPPONENTS	248	2,803	11.3	69t	21

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG	TD
Butler	3	76	25.3	76	0
Evans	2	24	12.0	24	0
Teague	1	26	26.0	26	0
Koonce	1	12	12.0	12	0
Prior	1	9	9.0	9	0
Newsome	0	3	0.0	3	0
TEAM	8	150	18.8	76	0
OPPONENTS	13	182	14.0	31	0

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Net	TB	IN	LG	B
Hentrich	51	2,180	42.7	35.0	4	20	61	2
TEAM	53	2,180	41.1	35.0	4	20	61	2
OPPONENTS	70	2,970	42.4	35.1	3	12	55	0

PUNT RETURNS	Ret.	FC	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Freeman	25	0	230	9.2	26	0
Jordan	21	2	213	10.1	18	0
Evans	1	0	0	0.0	0	0
Ingram	1	0	0	0.0	0	0
Prior	1	2	10	10.0	10	0
TEAM	49	4	453	9.2	26	0
OPPONENTS	31	7	243	7.8	40	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Jordan	21	444	21.1	33	0
Freeman	15	343	22.9	45	0
Jervey	5	120	24.0	28	0
Morgan	3	46	15.3	20	0
Arthur	1	10	10.0	10	0
Brooks	1	28	28.0	28	0
Jurkovic	1	17	17.0	17	0
TEAM	47	1,008	21.4	45	0
OPPONENTS	53	1,117	21.1	46	0

FIELD GOALS	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+
Jacke	0/0	5/6	0/2	5/5	2/3
Hentrich	0/0	0/0	2/3	1/2	0/0
TEAM	0/0	5/6	2/5	6/7	2/3
OPPONENTS	2/2	3/3	6/6	2/3	0/0

Jacke: () () () () (42G) (42G,43G,34N,20G,27N) (51N,37N,26G) (20G,50G, 28G) (42G,50G,46G) () (28G) ()
Hentrich: () (32G, 38G) (38N) (47N, 49G) () () () () () () () ()
Opponents: (19G) (20G) (37G, 32G) () (24G,35G) () () (38G) (36G, 47N, 39G) () (46G,28G) (19G,48G)

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Lions back in playoff hunt

By David Marran

Notes: Scott Mitchell's 410 yards passing against the Vikings on Thanksgiving Day broke the team record. The old mark was 370 set by the legendary Bobby Layne on Nov. 5, 1950, against the Bears. ... Wide receiver Herman Moore says attitude is the difference between this year's poor-starting Lions and the current Lions who have fought their way back into the playoff hunt. "Right now, we're playing with more confidence and more enthusiasm," Moore said.

This week: at Houston

Series: Houston leads 4-2

Last meeting: Nov. 26, 1992, at the Silverdome: Oilers 24, Lions 21

Scouting report: The Lions entered December as the top offensive Team in the NFL with 4,580 total yards. The Lions were averaging 114.1 rushing yards and 267.6 passing yards a game. ... The Oilers were third in the AFC in defense. Houston was surrendering an average of just 303 yards a game entering December. ... Detroit has to be careful with the ball. The Oilers were leading the AFC with 29 takeaways through 12 games.

Team leaders (through Week 13): Passing: Mitchell 259-440 (58.9%), 3,150 yards, 23 TDs, 9 INT; rushing: Barry Sanders 232-1,232 (5.3 avg.), 8 TDs; receiving: Moore 87-1,234 (14.2), 11 TDs; TDs: Moore 11; Kicking: Jason Hanson 33-33 PAT, 19-24 FG, 90 points.

Notes: The Bears entered December with a 15-game road losing streak in the month ... Wide receiver Jeff Graham is only the fifth Bear to gain 1,000 yards in a season. He became the first to do it since Dick Gordon turned the trick in 1970 ... Rashaan Salaam broke Walter Payton's 1975 Bear rookie record for rushing attempts in the Nov. 26 game against the Giants. Payton's record was 196. Salaam ended the New York game with 210 carries.

This week: Cincinnati

Series: Bengals lead 3-2

Last meeting: Nov. 8, 1992, at Chicago: Bengals 31, Bears 28 OT

Scouting report: The Bears have been burned by big receivers this season and the Bengals have one of the best in 6-foot-2 Carl Pickens. If Donnell Woolford's hip isn't healed, Jeremy Lincoln will most likely cover Pickens. This is a rare meeting. The Bears and Bengals have met only four times. This is only the second game in Cincinnati. Bears coach Dave Wannstedt is 7-4 against the AFC.

Team leaders (through Week 13): Passing: Erik Kramer 241-395 (61%), 3,077 yards, 26 TDs, 9 INT; rushing: Salaam 210-710 (3.4), 6 TDs; receiving: Graham 63-1,016 (16.1 avg.) 3 TDs; TDs: WR Curtis Conway 12; kicking: Kevin Butler: 37-37 PAT, 19-23 FG, 94 pts.

Notes: The Vikings may be without leading rusher Robert Smith for a while. The Ohio State product has been struggling with a knee injury since the Oct. 22 loss at Green Bay. ... The Vikings are their usual strong selves against the run but are struggling against the pass. The Vikes entered December second in the NFC against the run but 11th against the pass.

This week: Cleveland

Series: Vikings lead 8-3

Last meeting: Nov. 22, 1992, at Minnesota: Vikings 17, Browns 13.

Scouting report: Warren Moon was 9-11 in his career vs. Cleveland while with Houston. Moon began his career 0-7 vs. the Browns but has since gone 9-4 including a win in the 1988 AFC playoffs. ... The Vikings have won five of six from Cleveland in Minnesota. ... Each of the last five games in this series have been decided by six points or less. ... The loser has never scored more than 23 points in this series.

Team leaders: Passing: Moon 289-463 (62.4%), 3,171 yards, 24 TDs, 11 INTs; rushing: Smith 130-599 (4.6 avg.), 5 TDs; receiving: Cris Carter 89-944 (10.6), 12 TDs; TDs: Carter 12: Kicking: Fuad Reveiz 31-31 PAT, 19-24 FG, 88 pts.

Notes: The loss at Green Bay Nov. 26 meant that the Bucs still had never won a game when the temperature was 42 degrees or lower. ... The Nov. 26 game marked the first time that the Bucs and Packers had played when each team had a winning record. ... Jackie Harris caught 10 passes against the Packers, his former team. Harris is the Bucs' single season leader for tight ends with 47 catches.

This week: Green Bay

Series: Packers lead 20-12-1

Last meeting: Nov. 26 at Green Bay: Packers 35, Tampa Bay 13

Scouting report: There was some good news and some bad news that came out of the Bucs' first meeting with the Packers. The good news was that quarterback Trent Dilfer had his best day as a pro. He completed 28 of 49 passes for 324 yards. The bad news was that running back Errict Rhett was shut out and then-some. The Packers held Rhett to minus-one yard rushing. ... Linebacker Hardy Nickerson was ejected from the first game after a run-in with Packers' center Frank Winters.

Team leaders: Passing: Dilfer 163-308 (52.9%), 2,022 yards, 3 TD, 11 INT; rushing: Rhett 266-895 (3.4 avg.), 11 TDs; receiving: Harris 47 catches; TDs: Rhett 11; kicking: Michael Husted 20-20 PAT, 14-21 FG, 62 pts.

NFC rankings: Offense 15th (10th rush, 13th pass); Defense: 7th (8th rush, 10 pass).

David Marran is sports editor of the Kenosha News.

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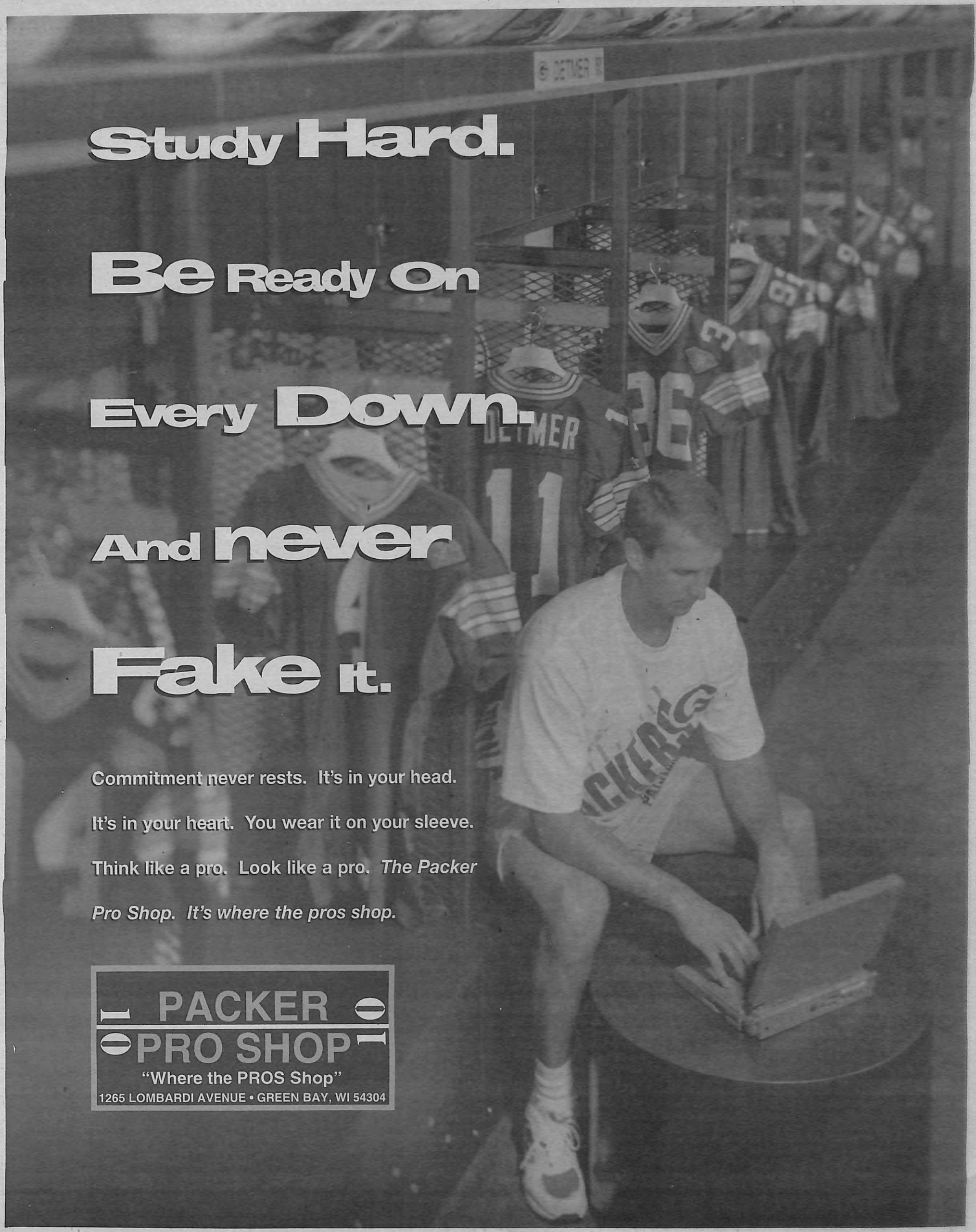
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Chilly elements an edge

Art Daley

Featured columnist

We are now in the last month of the Christian calendar, commonly called December. It is sometimes named the Holy Month because Christmas falls in it.

In Packer parlance, it is the intention of this word warbler today to discuss the fortunes of your favorite football team in the month in December. So bundle up.

Starting in 1921 and whistling through last Sunday against the Cincinnati Bengals at Lambeau Field, the Packers have played 497 regularly-scheduled NFL games at home (Green Bay and Milwaukee).

Okay, hot shots, how many home league games were played by our lads in the month of December? Anybody who can guess that without visiting the public library or some such source of information should get a five-year membership in America's Pack plus a same-length subscription to Packer Report.

Of those 497 games, the Packers have played only 39 at home in December. That, my friends, is just 7.8 percent.

Curly Lambeau, founder and head coach for 31 years, battled in just two home December games, one each in 1922 and 1942. The next coach, Gene Ronzani, figured in one home December game, in 1951. The next home December game wasn't played until 10 years later – 1961 – Vince Lombardi's third season.

Thus, the Packers played only four home December games in 40 years of league play.

It seems a bit silly now, what with hand, foot and "seat" warmers, but back in those earlier days fans didn't have the proper clothing to keep warm. Most fans now can wear thermal undies, plus snowmobile suits.

December games weren't that common around the NFL in the first two decades but became plentiful starting in the 1950s. For 14 years starting in 1950, the Pack's last two games were played out West.

Lombardi's teams were 4-0 in their only December home league game; Phil Bengtson 1-1, Dan Devine 3-1, Bart Starr 6-3, Forrest Gregg 3-3, Lindy Infante 1-4, and Mike Holmgren 6-1, assuming the Packers beat the Bengals in December league game 40.

December cold must work. In the 39 games, the Packers posted 25-14 for .641.

The two December home league games that stick in my old memory actually happened 43 years apart – Dec. 6, 1942, and Dec. 1, 1985.

The Pittsburgh Steelers were guests in 1942 in Milwaukee's State Fair Park. World War II was in full swing. It was an early winter. The field was frozen solid and snow was banked up high several yards off the sidelines and end zones. It was nearly 20 degrees. The attendance was a mere 5,138. Many players thought this might be the last game for the duration of the war.

Lambeau came up with quite a surprise. He ordered all players not actually in the game to remain in the dressing room where they listened to the game by radio. A telephone setup between the bench and the dressing room was used to call various substitutes, with Assistant Coach Eddie Kotal handling the inside phone and Lambeau the bench phone.

Kotal didn't see a single play all day and the fans were confused a little by the players coming and going. One time, Packer passer Cecil Isbell wanted to stay on the sidelines to see what the Steeler defense was doing but Curly ordered hm into the dressing room.

The Packers came up winners 24-21 on Don Hutson's field goal, finishing the season at 8-2-1.

That 1942 game was no problem compared to the great "Snow Bowl" of 1985. The Packers were playing the Tampa Bay Buccaneers during a full-fledged blizzard. The snowstorm was dropping 15 inches of snow and a 35-mile wind kept it swirling.

Up north we often refer to a snowy day as a "winter wonderland." This was beautiful except it wasn't fit for a football game. There were 36,586 no shows that day, certainly a record, but 19,856 actually got into their seats. In fact, Coach Forrest Gregg said, "I couldn't believe the noise they made."

The poor Buccaneers were helpless and the Packers were unbelievable. In winning 21-0, the Pack rolled up 512 yards and there were two 100-yard rushers, Eddie Lee Ivery (106) and Gerry Ellis (101). James Lofton caught six passes for 106 yards and he smiled later, "it's a learned skill."

A year earlier Lynn Dickey and Lofton excelled in the midst of a blizzard in Denver. In Green Bay's blitz, Dickey completed 22 of 36 for 299 yards.

The Tampa Bay quarterback completed only eight passes in 17 attempts for 53 yards. He's a biggie now – Steve Young of the San Francisco 49ers. He was a Buc sophomore out of Brigham Young then.

Though it wasn't December, the Packer-Tampa Bay game on Nov. 26 dodged a huge blizzard by 24 hours. On Monday following the game, Green Bay and northeastern Wisconsin was locked up by 12 inches of snow and howling winds.

Snow, of course, is a little uncalled for but just plain cold weather has not been a big hindrance for visiting teams. There are exceptions. For one — in 1993 the Packers beat the Los Angeles Raiders 28-0 on Dec. 26. The temperature was a friendly zero, wind chill minus 22, and methinks the weather hurt the Californians.

What about the other side of the coin – playing in heat and humidity? Playing in Miami or Tampa Bay in September can be debilitating. Teams try to prevent dehydration but often players get sick.

Thank you Trent Dilfer. After the Pack whipped the Bucs 35-13, QB Dilfer asked about Green Bay's 34 degrees for the game, repeated my thought: "I'd rather play here than in Florida in September. The ball stays nice and sticky and you keep your hands warm with the pouches."

Methinks, cold air is very invigorating. It makes you want to swing your arms and the like. Hot, humid air? It makes you want to sit down.

P.S. – The Packers have been batting 1000 in December and January home playoffs but that's another story.

"Coach Lombardi"

By Kim Wierzchowski

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Johnson not a good fit with Pack

LeShon Johnson, who came to the Green Bay Packers in 1994 after leading the nation in rushing for Northern Illinois, never quite fit in with the Packers' offense and was released last week to make room for Jim McMahon.

Johnson was quickly claimed by three teams – Arizona, Carolina and Chicago – but the Cardinals won the rights to Johnson because their record was poorer than the other two teams.

Johnson, a third-round draft choice in 1994, finished with 99 yards rushing and caught 13 passes for 168 yards before suffering a knee injury last December.

Johnson worked hard to come back from the injury and regain the lightning speed that enabled him to rush for 1,976 yards at Northern Illinois.

But the success of running back Edgar Bennett and fullback Dorsey Levens in the backfield this season and the fact that Johnson didn't play on any special teams made it difficult for Johnson to receive any playing time.

Johnson is also a straight-line, I-back type of runner, which doesn't mix well in the Packers' offensive scheme.

Coach Mike Holmgren said he wished he could have done more to work Johnson into the offense, but general manager Ron Wolf said that the team basically swung and missed on Johnson.

"We were looking for a home-run hitter," Wolf told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. "This kid was a home-run hitter. We struck out."

Mariucci interviews: University of California officials were in Green Bay last week to interview Packers quarterback coach Steve Mariucci for the vacant head coaching job.

Mariucci is considered one of leading candidates to return to the school where he was an assistant coach from 1987-91.

Holmgren spoke with Bill Walsh recently and Walsh said he felt Mariucci had a real good chance of getting the job.

Mariucci, a native of Iron Mountain, Mich., said the job had not been offered to him when he met with Cal officials. He has said he would like to remain with the Packers through the end of the season, even if he is named Cal's head coach.

New guy: The Packers added linebacker Ronnie Woolfork to the practice squad. Woolfork was drafted by Miami in 1994 out of Colorado. He was cut by Kansas City in training camp this year.

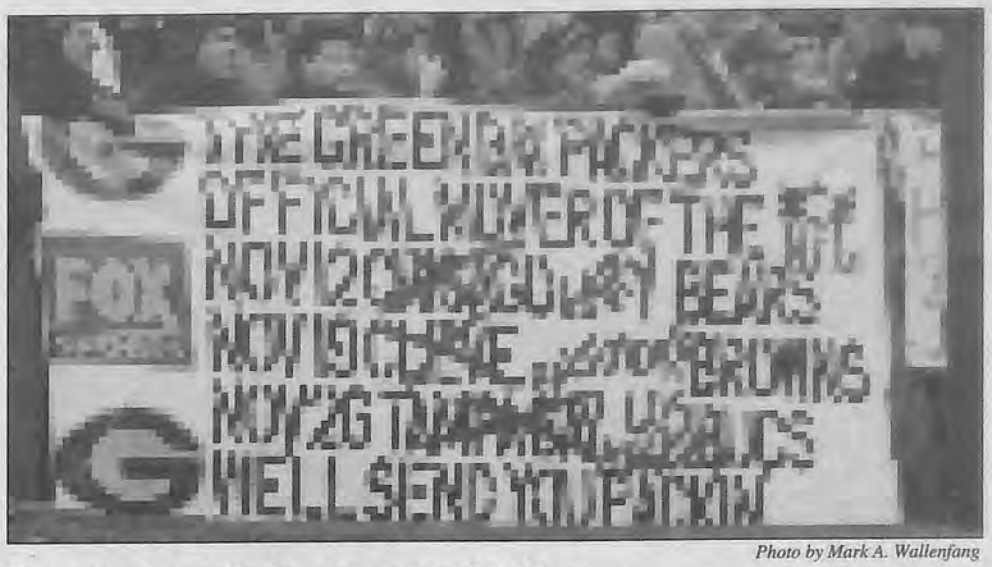

Photo by Mark A. Wallenfang

Fans give recent Packer opponents their itinerary.

Trivia winner

Dennis Manikowski of Milwaukee, Wis., won a copy of "Packer Legends in Facts," a new book by Eric Goska, by correctly answering a trivia question in the *Packer Report* published in the Nov. 18 issue.

Manikowski was selected from a number of people who correctly answered that Gerry Ellis is the only Packer to catch more than 200 passes (267) in his career with the Packers.

To win, all answers must be postmarked no later than one week from the date on the cover of the Packer Report. If there is more than one correct answer, a drawing will be held to select a winner. The books will be mailed out by Tech/Data Publications, Germantown, Wis., (414) 251-7027.

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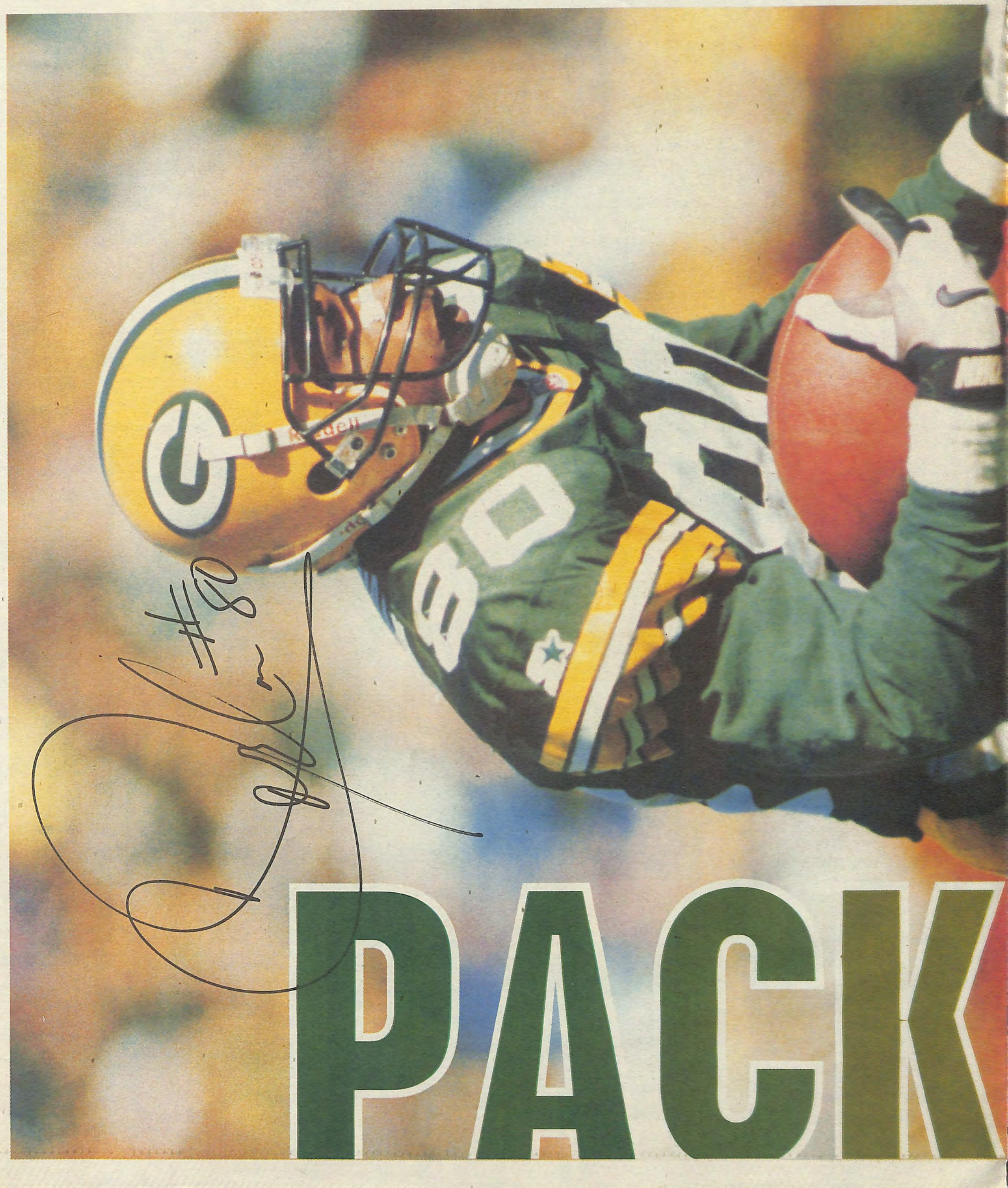
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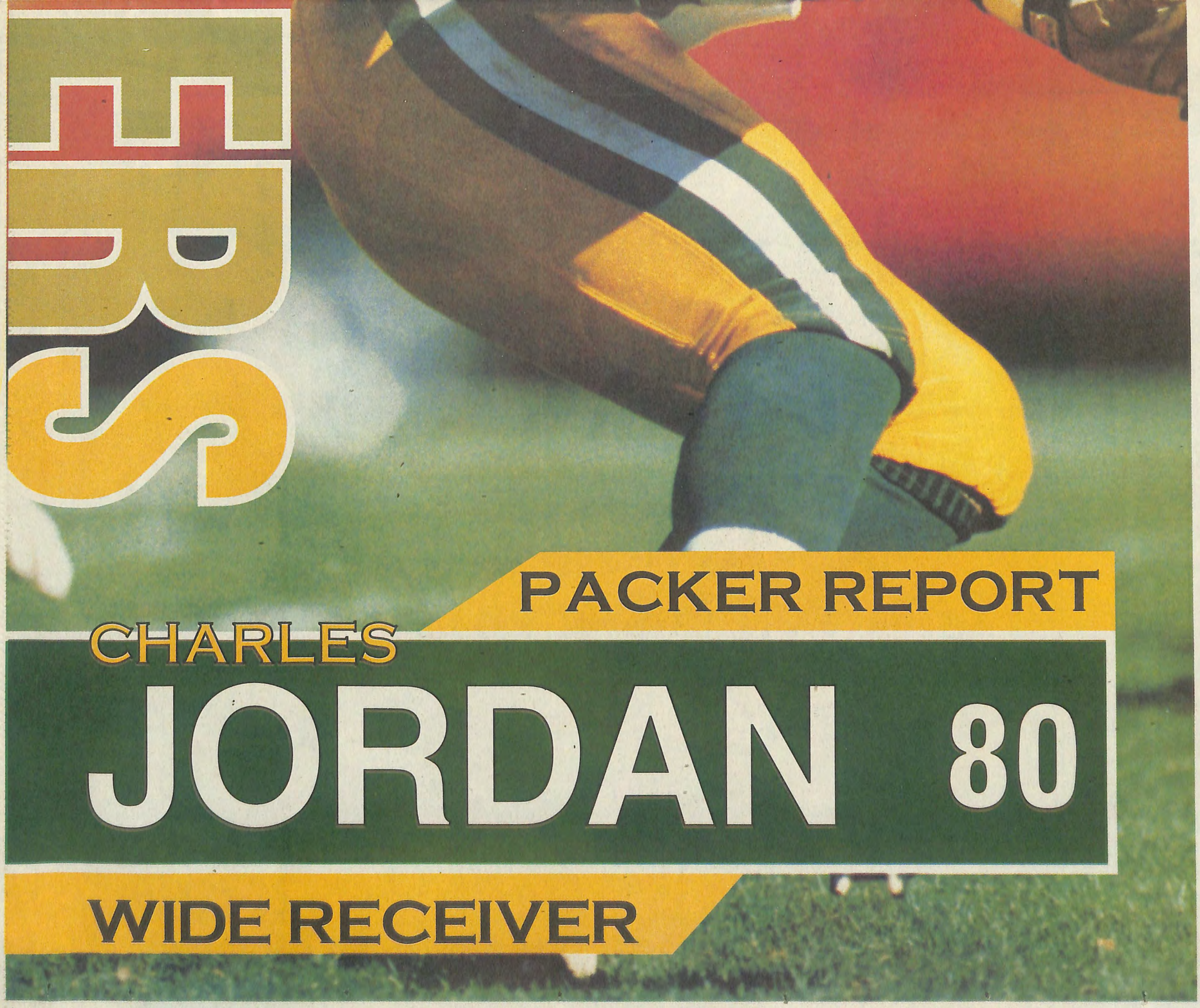

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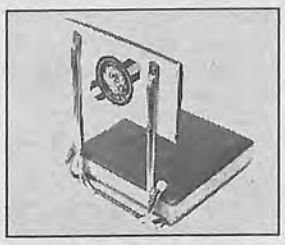

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Teague gives kids special gift

About 60 children had a chance to watch the Green Bay Packers Nov. 26 and Dec. 3 thanks to Packers free safety George Teague.

Teague donated tickets to 30 Appleton School District students and five adult chaperones for the Nov. 26 game against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. He also gave 30 Special Olympics athletes and five chaperones a chance to attend the Dec. 3 game against the Cincinnati Bengals.

"I just want to do something where I know I'll have a positive effect," said Teague. "I'm just trying to be a positive role model for them."

Teague met with the Appleton students and Special Olympians three hours before each game, gave them autographed cards of himself and talked with the children.

Most of the students had never seen a Packers game at Lambeau Field and many may not otherwise have an opportunity to attend a game.

Each group sat near the player entrance to the field to cheer on Teague and the Packers.

Photo by Todd Korth

George Teague hands out autographed cards of himself to about 30 Appleton students before the game Nov. 26.

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Oct. 15	vs.	Detroit Lions
Nov. 26	vs.	Tampa Bay Buccaneers
Dec. 3	vs.	Cincinnati Bengals
Dec. 24	vs.	Pittsburgh Steelers

America's PACK
PHILLIPS 66
FUN ZONE

(Central Time)

Week 1

Sunday, Sept. 3
St. Louis 17, **PACKERS** 14
New England 17, Cleveland 14
Atlanta 23, Carolina 20, OT
Tampa Bay 21, Philadelphia 6
Miami 52, New York 14
Kansas City 34, Seattle 10
Chicago 31, Minnesota 14
Cincinnati 24, Indianapolis 21, OT
Houston 10, Jacksonville 3
San Francisco 24, New Orleans 22
Pittsburgh 23, Detroit 20
Oakland 17, San Diego 7
Washington 27, Arizona 7
Denver 22, Buffalo 7
Monday, Sept. 4
Dallas 35, N.Y. Giants 0

Week 2

Sunday, Sept. 10
Miami 20, New England 3
Pittsburgh 34, Houston 17
Minnesota 20, Detroit 10
Kansas City 20, N.Y. Giants 17, OT
Dallas 31, Denver 21
San Diego 14, Seattle 10
San Francisco 41, Atlanta 10
Oakland 20, Washington 8
St. Louis 17, New Orleans 13
Buffalo 31, Carolina 9
Cleveland 22, Tampa Bay 6
Indianapolis 27, N.Y. Jets 24, OT
Cincinnati 24, Jacksonville 17
Philadelphia 31, Arizona 19
Monday, Sept. 11
PACKERS 27, Chicago 24

Week 3

Sunday, Sept. 17
PACKERS 14, N.Y. Giants 6
Chicago 25, Tampa Bay 6
San Diego 27, Philadelphia 21
Kansas City 23, Oakland 17, OT
St. Louis 31, Carolina 10
Arizona 20, Detroit 17
San Francisco 28, New England 3
N.Y. Jets 27, Jacksonville 10
Buffalo 20, Indianapolis 14
Cleveland 14, Houston 7
Atlanta 27, New Orleans 24, OT
Seattle 24, Cincinnati 21
Denver 38, Washington 31
Dallas 23, Minnesota 17, OT
Monday, Sept. 18
Miami 23, Pittsburgh 10

Week 4

BYE: Buffalo, Carolina, Indianapolis, Miami, New England, Seattle
Sunday, Sept. 24
PACKERS 24, Jacksonville 14
N.Y. Giants 45, New Orleans 29
Minnesota 44, Pittsburgh 24
San Diego 17, Denver 6
Dallas 34, Arizona 20
Oakland 48, Philadelphia 17
Cleveland 35, Kansas City 17
St. Louis 34, Chicago 28
Tampa Bay 14, Washington 6
Atlanta 13, N.Y. Jets 3
Houston 38, Cincinnati 28
Monday, Sept. 25
Detroit 27, San Francisco 24

Week 5

BYE: Bears, Detroit, PACKERS, Minnesota
Sunday, Oct. 1
Atlanta 30, New England 17
Miami 26, Cincinnati 23
Tampa Bay 20, Carolina 13
Philadelphia 15, New Orleans 10
Washington 27, Dallas 23
Indianapolis 21, St. Louis 18
Kansas City 24, Arizona 3
Jacksonville 17, Houston 16
Seattle 27, Denver 10
Pittsburgh 31, San Diego 16
San Francisco 20, N.Y. Giants 6
Oakland 47, N.Y. Jets 10
Monday, Oct. 2
Buffalo 22, Cleveland 19

Week 6

BYE: Atlanta, New Orleans, St. Louis, San Francisco
Sunday, Oct. 8
Dallas 34, **PACKERS** 24
Bears 31, Carolina 27
Buffalo 29, N.Y. Jets 10
Philadelphia 37, Washington 34, OT
Minnesota 23, Houston 17, OT
Indianapolis 27, Miami 24, OT
N.Y. Giants 27, Arizona 21, OT
Denver 37, New England 3
Tampa Bay 19, Cincinnati 16
Jacksonville 20, Pittsburgh 16
Detroit 38, Cleveland 20
Oakland 34, Seattle 14
Monday, Oct. 9
Kansas City 29, San Diego 23, OT

Week 7

BYE: Cleveland, Cincinnati, Houston, Pittsburgh
Thursday, Oct. 12
St. Louis 21, Atlanta 19
Sunday, Oct. 15
PACKERS 30, Detroit 21
Kansas City 31, New England 26
Tampa Bay 20, Minnesota 17, OT
Chicago 30, Jacksonville 27
Carolina 26, N.Y. Jets 15
Dallas 23, San Diego 9
Buffalo 27, Seattle 21
Philadelphia 17, N.Y. Giants 14
Indianapolis 18, San Francisco 17
New Orleans 33, Miami 30
Arizona 24, Washington 20
Monday, Oct. 16
Denver 27, Oakland 0

Week 8

BYE: Arizona, Dallas, N.Y. Giants, Philadelphia
Thursday, Oct. 19
Cincinnati 27, Pittsburgh 9
Sunday, Oct. 22
PACKERS 38, Minnesota 21
Chicago 35, Houston 32
N.Y. Jets 17, Miami 16
Carolina 20, New Orleans 3
Atlanta 24, Tampa Bay 21
Kansas City 21, Denver 7
Oakland 30, Indianapolis 17
San Diego 35, Seattle 25
Jacksonville 23, Cleveland 15
Washington 36, Detroit 30, OT
San Francisco 44, St. Louis 10
Monday, Oct. 23
New England 27, Buffalo 14

Week 9

BYE: Denver, Kansas City, Los Angeles, San Diego
Sunday, Oct. 29
Detroit 24, **PACKERS** 16
Indianapolis 17, N.Y. Jets 10
Dallas 28, Atlanta 13
Carolina 20, New England 17, OT
Arizona 20, Seattle 14, OT
Houston 19, Tampa Bay 7
Pittsburgh 24, Jacksonville 7
Cleveland 29, Cincinnati 26, OT

NFL STANDINGS

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Central

	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
PACKERS	9	4	0	.692	336	259
Chicago	7	5	0	.583	324	293
Minnesota	7	6	0	538	331	310
Detroit	6	6	0	.500	304	302
Tampa Bay	6	7	0	.462	205	257

Eastern

	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Dallas	10	3	0	.769	360	238
Philadelphia	8	5	0	.615	263	281
Arizona	4	9	0	.308	217	336
N.Y. Giants	4	9	0	.308	233	279
Washington	4	9	0	.308	258	299

Western

	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
San Francisco	9	4	0	.692	362	190
Atlanta	7	6	0	.538	298	287
St. Louis	7	6	0	.538	237	297
Carolina	6	7	0	.462	241	257
New Orleans	6	7	0	.462	270	295

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

Eastern

	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Buffalo	8	5	0	.615	265	260
Indianapolis	7	6	0	.538	256	251
Miami	7	6	0	.538	324	281
New England	5	8	0	.385	229	298
N.Y. Jets	3	10	0	.231	199	318

Central

	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
xPittsburgh	9	4	0	.692	318	266
Cincinnati	5	8	0	.385	296	314
Houston	5	8	0	.385	280	277
Cleveland	4	9	0	.308	231	295
Jacksonville	3	10	0	.231	220	298

Western

	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
xKansas City	11	2	0	.846	306	208
Oakland	8	5	0	.615	300	228
Denver	7	6	0	.538	313	266
San Diego	6	7	0	.462	239	257
Seattle	6	7	0	.462	285	303

x — clinched division title

Philadelphia 20, St. Louis 9
Miami 23, Buffalo 6
New Orleans 11, San Francisco 7
N.Y. Giants 24, Washington 15
Monday, Oct. 30
Bears 14, Minnesota 6

Week 10

BYE: Jacksonville, Tampa Bay
Sunday, Nov. 5
Minnesota 27, **PACKERS** 24
Houston 37, Cleveland 10
New Orleans 19, St. Louis 10
Oakland 20, Cincinnati 17
Pittsburgh 37, Chicago 34, OT
Denver 38, Arizona 6
Miami 24, San Diego 14
New England 20, N.Y. Jets 7
Atlanta 34, Detroit 22
Kansas City 24, Washington 3
Buffalo 16, Indianapolis 10
Carolina 13, San Francisco 7
Seattle 30, N.Y. Giants 28
Monday, Nov. 6
Dallas 34, Philadelphia 12

Week 11

BYE: N.Y. Jets, Washington
Sunday, Nov. 12
PACKERS 35, Chicago 28
Oakland 17, N.Y. Giants 13
New England 34, Miami 17
Seattle 47, Jacksonville 30
Detroit 27, Tampa Bay 24
San Francisco 38, Dallas 20
Philadelphia 31, Denver 13
New Orleans 17, Indianapolis 14
Buffalo 23, Atlanta 17
Cincinnati 32, Houston 25
St. Louis 28, Carolina 17
Kansas City 22, San Diego 7
Minnesota 30, Arizona 24, OT
Monday, Nov. 13
Pittsburgh 20, Cleveland 3

Week 12

Sunday, Nov. 19
PACKERS 31, Cleveland 20
Tampa Bay 17, Jacksonville 16
Pittsburgh 49, Cincinnati 31
Carolina 27, Arizona 7
Detroit 24, Chicago 17
Buffalo 28, N.Y. Jets 26
Minnesota 43, New Orleans 24
Seattle 27, Washington 20
Indianapolis 24, New England 10
Atlanta 31, St. Louis 6
Philadelphia 28, N.Y. Giants 19
Denver 30, San Diego 27
Dallas 34, Oakland 21
Kansas City 20, Houston 13
Monday, Nov. 20
San Francisco 40, Miami 20

Week 13

Thursday, Nov. 23
Detroit 44, Minnesota 38
Dallas 24, Kansas City 12
Sunday, Nov. 26
PACKERS 35, Tampa Bay 13
New England 35, Buffalo 25
Chicago 27, N.Y. Giants 24
Houston 42, Denver 33
Pittsburgh 20, Cleveland 17
Arizona 40, Atlanta 37, OT
Indianapolis 36, Miami 28
Cincinnati 17, Jacksonville 13
Philadelphia 14, Washington 7
N.Y. Jets 16, Seattle 10
San Francisco 41, St. Louis 13
New Orleans 34, Carolina 26
Monday, Nov. 27
San Diego 12, Oakland 6

Week 14

Thursday, Nov. 30
N.Y. Giants 10, Arizona 6
Sunday, Dec. 3
PACKERS 24, Cincinnati 10
Pittsburgh 21, Houston 7
New Orleans 31, New England 17
Minnesota 31, Tampa Bay 17
Kansas City 29, Oakland 23
Washington 24, Dallas 17
San Francisco 27, Buffalo 17
Carolina 13, Indianapolis 10
Miami 21, Atlanta 20
St. Louis 23, N.Y. Jets 20
Denver 31, Jacksonville 23
San Diego 31, Cleveland 13
Seattle 26, Philadelphia 14
Monday, Dec. 4
Bears at Detroit ..... 8 p.m.

Week 15

Saturday, Dec. 9
Cleveland at Minnesota ..... 11:30 a.m.
Arizona at San Diego ..... 3 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 10
PACKERS at Tampa Bay ..... 7 p.m.
Bears at Cincinnati ..... Noon
Buffalo at St. Louis ..... Noon
N.Y. Jets at New England ..... Noon
Indianapolis at Jacksonville ..... Noon
New Orleans at Atlanta ..... Noon
San Francisco at Carolina ..... Noon
Dallas at Philadelphia ..... Noon
Detroit at Houston ..... Noon
Seattle at Denver ..... 3 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Oakland ..... 3 p.m.
Washington at N.Y. Giants ..... 3 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 12
Kansas City at Miami ..... 8 p.m.

Week 16

Saturday, Dec. 16
New England at Pittsburgh ..... 11:30 a.m.
PACKERS at New Orleans ..... 3 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 17
Tampa Bay at Bears ..... Noon
Jacksonville at Detroit ..... Noon
Miami at Buffalo ..... Noon
Cincinnati at Cleveland ..... Noon
N.Y. Jets at Houston ..... Noon
Atlanta at Carolina ..... Noon
Arizona at Philadelphia ..... Noon
Washington at St. Louis ..... Noon
Denver at Kansas City ..... 3 p.m.
San Diego at Indianapolis ..... 3 p.m.
N.Y. Giants at Dallas ..... 3 p.m.
Oakland at Seattle ..... 7 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 18
Minnesota at San Francisco ..... 8 p.m.

Week 17

Saturday, Dec. 23
San Diego at N.Y. Giants ..... 11:30 a.m.
Detroit at Tampa Bay ..... 3 p.m.
New England at Indianapolis ..... 7 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 24
Pittsburgh at **PACKERS** ..... Noon
Philadelphia at Bears ..... Noon
Houston at Buffalo ..... Noon
Seattle at Kansas City ..... Noon
Cleveland at Jacksonville ..... Noon
San Francisco at Atlanta ..... Noon
New Orleans at N.Y. Jets ..... Noon
Minnesota at Cincinnati ..... Noon
Carolina at Washington ..... 3 p.m.
Denver at Oakland ..... 3 p.m.
Miami at St. Louis ..... 3 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 25
Dallas at Arizona ..... 8 p.m.

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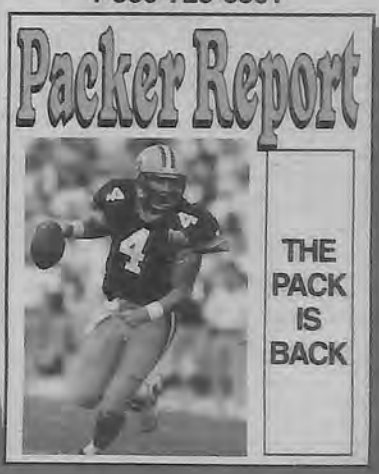

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HA95-5

Kelly gets job done

Linebacker gives Pack's defense a lift

Lee Remmel

Featured columnist

Joe Kelly, a certified veteran, has been there...To the playoffs, for example...And to what he reverently calls "the ultimate," the Super Bowl.

The latter, for the record, was SB XXIII against the San Francisco 49ers in Miami following the 1988 season, when Kelly was a member of the Cincinnati Bengals, who had made him their first round selection in the '86 draft.

Along the way, he also has started more than 100 games over a 10-year career at linebacker in the National Football League – 15 of them for the then Los Angeles Rams in 1994, following four seasons with the Bengals, three with the New York Jets and one with the Los Angeles Raiders.

But, chances are, there are few starts that have been more satisfying to the competitive Californian than the one he made against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in the Packers' 12th game of the season, considering the surrounding circumstances.

An athlete obviously accustomed to being in the heart of the action (101 starts in 127 games prior to the 1995 season), he had found himself primarily in a special teams role after joining the Packers as a free agent Aug. 25 – and thus literally champing at the bit to get back on the field – until called upon to step in for the injured Fred Strickland at middle linebacker against the Buccaneers.

"It felt good to get out there," Kelly quietly acknowledged, pointing out, "Last year, Christmas Eve, was the last time I started...So it was good to get in there and play some football."

Big stop

Joe, as befits one of his background and commitment, responded with a solidly professional performance, punctuated by a highly opportune, momentum-changing "stick" of Tampa Bay running back Errict Rhett at the Packer one-yard-line in the second quarter.

That abrupt, third-down stop capped an impressive stand which forced the Bucs, then in a position to go up 14-7, to settle for a Michael Husted field goal and a more modest 10-7 lead, a development Head Coach Mike Holmgren later noted "juices everybody up."

Kelly, himself, reacted to his explosive contribution in dramatic fashion, literally vibrating with satisfaction over the result as the play ended.

Reflecting upon it as he prepared to face the Cincinnati Bengals, he said, "That's how I play. I've always been an emotional player...an aggressive player. And, as I get more comfortable with the scheme, and knowing where I fit every play, then you can be more aggressive and be more exuberant with our reactions."

With regard to the play itself, and how he "arranged" to make it, Kelly observed, "Once you get down in the goal line situations – short yardage situations – the field is compressed. So there's only a certain amount of things that they can do. And, just studying through film, we'd seen what they like to do out of that particular formation and it was just a matter of me...making the play. I'm going to play the play that I've seen on film, and that was exactly the play that they ran."

Recalling the goal-line stand in detail, he said, "I can't remember the first play, but the play before I made my play, (George) Koonce and Mike Prior – they came in and stopped him on the one-yard-line. And then they brought their big guy, Warren Sapp, in. And in that particular formation, we pretty much knew what they were going to do, and it was just a matter of making a play."

Kelly had found the stand as a whole "very special.. You know, you get down there and the object of the game is for us to keep 'em out of the end zone. And they put their beef guys in and it was man against man. And it's sort of what football's about," Joe noted with obvious satisfaction. "So when you can stop 'em and force 'em to kick a field goal, it's a big momentum swing for a team."

Had his meaningful heroic, along with the start, helped make up for the playing time he had missed earlier?

"I couldn't say it necessarily made up for it – for all the time – because that was eleven games of being inactive, really," Joe candidly rejoined. "It was really tough. But, the main thing for me is to let those guys that I'm in battle with – and that's the other ten guys on the defense – know if I'm in there, I'm going to get the job done."

Speaking of "getting the job done," it was noted, he and his fellow defenders had totally shut down Rhett, one of the NFL's top running backs, holding him to a minus-one yard in 13 rushing attempts.

Kelly

"That was our objective," Kelly said. "If we can shut their running lanes down in the front seven – play tough against the run and force (Trent) Dilfer to pass – because he was having a lot of problems, although after our game...you couldn't tell. But we focused in on the run and the front seven was very physical and, you know, we made some plays."

Prefers to play 'mike'

Although he has played all linebacker positions, and last season made all of his 15 starts at left outside linebacker, Kelly makes no secret of his preference.

"I'm a middle linebacker," he said, with unmistakeable emphasis. "I'm a 'mike' linebacker. And, if given the opportunity, I know I can be one of the best middle linebackers in this league...I feel that I'm better at 'mike.' I can play outside but I feel my skills are better at 'mike.'"

Whatever the case, Kelly's position coach, Jim Lind, assigned No. 57 a good grade on his first start at MLB.

"Joe played real well," Lind said. "He showed good leadership in there, which is important at the 'mike' position. He played aggrssively versus the run. I think, as far as pass coverage, I think that will get better. Being in there and seeing it makes a big difference.

"But we were pleased with Joe's play. He showed good awareness...and anticipated well."

Kelly, as a playoff and Super Bowl veteran, is well attuned to the possibilities for the division-leading Packers in the waning weeks of the regular season – and the task at hand.

"This is the time everybody needs to come together," he said, addressing in this

SEE KELLY PAGE 23

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Kelly

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

case his own defensive platoon, "This is the stretch run – this is what it's all about. You come down that four-game stretch and you can get it done, you can get some home playoff games. And this is the time for everybody to come together and jell and believe in one another – that everybody out there's going to get their job done."

Asked if he feels this is happening with the Green and Gold, Joe replied, "As far as the run, everybody stepped up – everybody was in the right place at the right time (against the Buccaneers). Everybody was where they were supposed to be. As far as the passing, we have to step up our passing defense. There were a couple situations where we let Jackie Harris get behind us, in certain things. But, actually, it was us just not executing the defense as well as we can. So now we've got to put both of them together, and I think we can do that."

And the team as a whole?

"I think so," Kelly said. "You know, I really didn't know too much about the team before I came here. And as the weeks developed, and seeing our offense – and our offense ranks among one of the top offensive teams – besides the '88 team in Cincinnati that I was around. They led everything.

"And this offense...they're scoring points...and that's the number one thing. When you can put 30 points on the board, you should win...you should win, plain and simple. You should win."

Can he, by chance, sense that something special might be building here?

"You know, like I said, it was hard for me, really to get a feel, being on the sideline. It's tough, you know. But I think when you're on the field, you can kind of feed off one another, and you can feel what the other players that are out there playing – you can feel what they're sensing.

"And I think if we can take this four-game stretch and do what we're capable of doing, then you have to have a swagger...like Coach Holmgren said. When we step on the field, 'I don't know how we're going to get it done, but we're going to get it done...It doesn't matter if it's Dallas...San Francisco...we're going to win.' If you have that confidence about you and your game – and in every body around you – then you can get it done."

And how far might this team go?

"You can go as far as you want to go," Kelly rejoined. "You can go as far as you believe you can go.

"Now, if you win this four-game stretch and you go down to Dallas, and you still have doubts... 'We have to play a perfect game – if we don't play a perfect game, we're going to lose.' Well, you're going to lose. You don't have to play a perfect game. They put their pants on the same way you put your pants on. You go down there – you execute your defense, you execute your offense, you play physical, sound football, you can get it done."

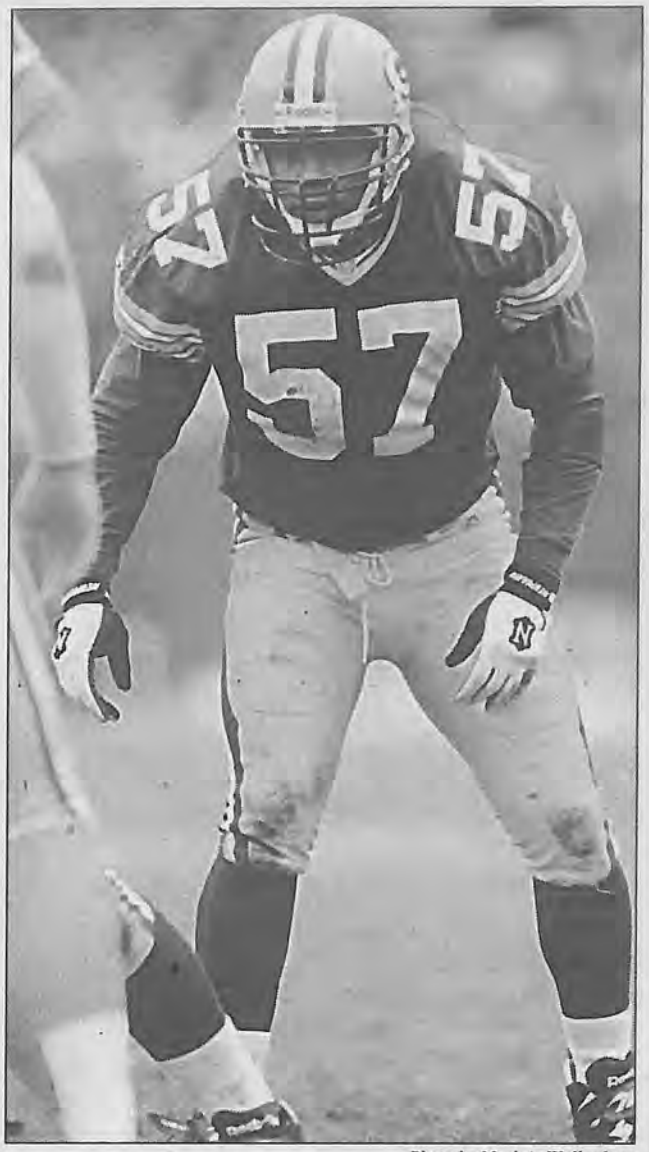

Photo by Mark A. Wallenfang

Joe Kelly is happy to be on the field again.

Super Bowl unforgettable

Making it to the Super Bowl with the Bengals, Joe readily admits, has been the highlight of his 10-year career.

"That's the ultimate," he said. "In college, I played in the Orange Bowl and, up to that point, that was the ultimate. But, going to the Super Bowl...I can't even describe the feeling. It's like you're walking in a haze...in a fog. And all the hype that you see and you think it is, it's even bigger than that when you're actually in the game. So it was an experience and I think every person – to really know how it is – you have to be there."

Could it happen to the '95 Packers?

"It could...you know, it could. The team has to jell. This is going to be a key four-game stretch. And, like when we went to the Super Bowl with Cincinnati – toward the end, we were playing our tails off. And when we got to the playoffs, we walked the walk...we talked the talk. And we didn't believe anybody could beat us. And, you know, we beat Seattle in the first game, and beat Buffalo for the AFC championship.

"And even going into the Super Bowl, we had the best record in the league that year and we still were confident that we could get it done. Unfortunately," Joe summed up with a facetious smile, "we forgot about Joe Montana...giving him the ball with two minutes to go...But, you know, we still felt we played a heck of a game."

Kelly file

Name: Joseph Winston Kelly
Position: Linebacker
Acquired: Signed on as an unrestricted free agent with Green Bay in 1995.
Height: 6-2
Weight: 235
Age: 30 (Dec. 11, 1964)
Hometown: Born in Sun Valley Calif., Resides in Loveland, Ohio.
School: University of Washington.
Pro: Nine-year starter in NFL with tremendous versatility. Can play inside or outside linebacker and solid run or pass defender. Signed by Los Angeles Rams in 1994 as unrestricted free agent. Also played for Raiders (1993), New York Jets (1990-92) and Cincinnati Bengals (1986-89). Originally drafted in first round of 1986 NFL draft (11th overall) by Cincinnati.

Started his first game for Packers Nov. 26 for injured Fred Strickland. Had six tackles in nine games. In 1994, played 16 games and started 15 at left outside linebacker for Los Angeles Rams. Finished fifth on team with 70 tackles and had career-high two sacks. In 1993, played in 16 games and started 14 at middle linebacker for Los Angeles Raiders. Second on team with career-high 103 tackles. In 1992, appeared in nine games with Jets. Missed seven games with an ankle injury. In 1991, played in 16 games and started 12 with Jets. Had 63 tackles and career-high two interceptions. In 1990, acquired by Jets from Cincinnati via trade for rigts to Reggie Rembert.

College: Three-year starter for University of Washington. First-team All-Pac 10 and Husky Player of Year in 1985. Semi-finalist for Butkus Award honoring most outstanding linebacker in country. Finished with 120 tackles.

High school: Played football for Jefferson High Democrats in Los Angeles. Also lettered in baseball as all-league catcher.

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Fans ask:

Cornerback Craig Newsome

Q: While playing man-to-man defense, how do you defend against the "pick" plays so often used by opposing teams?

Vic Smith
Des Moines, Iowa

Newsome: "You have to just drive the man and hope that you don't get rubbed off."

Q: Do you think the time you spent working construction helped you become an NFL player?

Dee Dee Zarzyski
Ripon, Ill.

Newsome: "It really taught me about life and made me work harder, knowing that you have to work for what you get. It helped me."

Newsome

Q: It has been said that you are playing like a veteran, not a rookie this year. How do you prepare yourself so you can play like this?

Jack Marquardt
Juneau, Wis.

Newsome: "I just work hard every day in practice and in the game, too. I just come here with my mind set knowing that I'm going to go out there and work hard every day."

Q: In the past, the Packers have had some draft day blunders (Terrell Bluckley, Tony Mandarich). Can you explain why the Packers did so good this year drafting yourself, Darius Holland, Antonio Freeman, Travis Jervey and William Henderson?

Aaron Rochlitz
Big Springs, Neb.

Newsome: "I'm just trying to help this team win and do my job. That's all I can do."

Q: When you were drafted and expected to start, was there extra pressure on you?

Dean Marquardt
Menomonie, Wis.

Newsome: "I'm just going out there on the field and doing what the coaches tell me to do. I'm working hard every day. If I play, well that's good. I'm just working hard out there."

Q: What do you think your chances are for winning defensive rookie of the year?

Jeremy Rochlitz
Big Springs, Neb.

Newsome: "I'll let those other people judge that. It's hard for me to say. I'm just going to keep playing and keep working."

Q: Being from Southern California, how different do you find the Wisconsin environment?

Gary Bauer
Riverside, Calif.

Newsome: "It's small, but the people here have been real nice. It's a nice place for my kids to grow up. It's a nice place."

Q: In your opinion, which is tougher: 1) Trying to tackle Barry Sanders out of the backfield; or 2) Playing bump and run coverage on Michael Irvin?

Jeff Johnson
Palatine, Ill.

Newsome: "Both really. None of that is easy. Barry is tough, but really both."

SEE **NEWSOME** PAGE 25

"Ask a Player"

Packer Report wants your questions for a feature interview with players. Send us your questions for linebacker Joe Kelly, punter Craig Hentrich and return specialist/receiver Charles Jordan. If we publish your question, you will receive a special autographed photo of the player. Send questions to:

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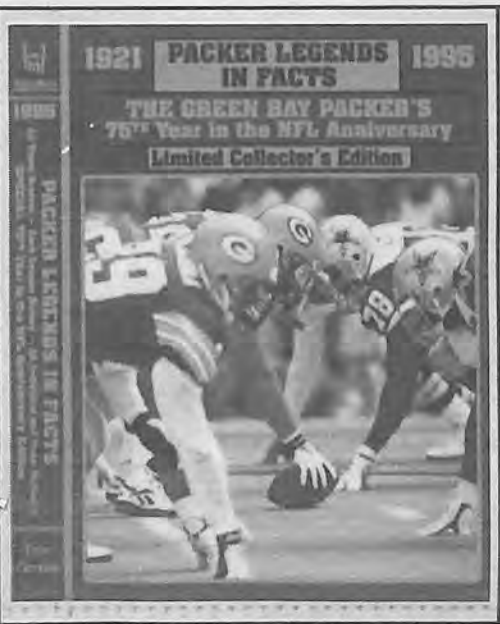
Green Bay, WI 54307

Photo by James V. Biever

Craig Newsome's philosophy on playing football is simple: Work hard.



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Newsome

CONTINUED FROM 24

Q: It's obvious one of your goals in life is to play in the NFL. What are some of your future goals, both professionally and non-professionally?

Tom Collova
Racine, Wis.

Newsome: "After I'm done playing I'd like to have a couple of things going. I just want to raise my kids and make sure they're OK."

Q: How long does it take for a defensive back to develop that fine line between making a great play and drawing a penalty, and is it different in the pros over college?

Windy Erd
Montello, Wis.

Newsome: "If you're playing real, real close you just can't be down the field and bumping a wideout because the ref will throw the flag on you. This year it seems like the wideouts are getting all the calls. You just have to play real tough out there and don't even worry about that."

Q: Who has been the toughest wide receiver you have faced so far this season?

Rick Sandersfeld
Amana, Iowa

Newsome: Cris Carter (Minnesota Vikings).

Q: Are you intimidated by the bigger receivers in the league, like Herman Moore and Michael Irvin, or do you go out there and try to intimidate them with a big hit?

Tyrone Smoker
Wausau, Wis.

Newsome: "I don't care who I play against. I'm just out there and I'm just going to do my job and hope that good things happen

Photo by Mark A. Wallenfang

Newsome, right, says Cris Carter is the toughest receiver he has faced.

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Packers roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Exp.	College
4	Brett Favre	QB	6-2	225	25	5	Southern Miss.
9	Jim McMahon	QB	6-1	195	36	14	Brigham Young
12	T.J. Rubley	QB	6-4	212	26	4	Tulsa
13	Chris Jacke	K	6-0	205	29	7	Texas-El Paso
17	Craig Hentrich	P	6-3	200	24	2	Notre Dame
18	Doug Pederson	QB	6-3	215	27	3	Northeast Louisiana
21	Craig Newsome	CB	6-0	188	24	R	Arizona State
22	Lenny McGill	CB	6-2	198	24	2	Arizona State
23	Matthew Dorsett	CB	5-11	187	22	R	Southern
25	Dorsey Levens	FB	6-1	240	25	2	Georgia Tech
28	Roderick Mullen	DB	6-1	204	22	R	Grambling
29	Marcus Wilson	RB	6-1	215	27	4	Virginia
30	William Henderson	FB	6-2	248	24	R	North Carolina
31	George Teague	S	6-1	195	24	3	Alabama
32	Travis Jervey	RB	6-0	225	23	R	The Citadel
33	Doug Evans	CB	6-1	190	25	3	Louisiana Tech
34	Edgar Bennett	RB	6-0	217	26	4	Florida State
36	Leroy Butler	S	6-0	200	27	6	Florida State
39	Mike Prior	S	6-0	208	31	10	Illinois State
45	Keith Crawford	CB	6-2	198	24	2	Howard Payne
50	Mike Arthur	C	6-3	280	27	5	Texas A & M
51	Brian Williams	LB	6-2	240	22	R	Southern Cal.
52	Frank Winters	C	6-3	295	31	9	Western Illinois
53	George Koonce	LB	6-1	243	26	4	East Carolina
54	Bernardo Harris	LB	6-2	243	23	1	North Carolina
55	Fred Strickland	LB	6-2	250	29	8	Purdue
57	Joe Kelly	LB	6-2	235	30	10	Washington
59	Wayne Simmons	LB	6-3	248	25	3	Clemson
63	Adam Timmerman	G	6-4	288	24	R	So. Dakota St.
64	John Jurkovic	NT	6-2	295	28	4	Eastern Illinois
65	Lindsay Knapp	G/T	6-6	290	25	3	Notre Dame
68	Joe Sims	T	6-3	310	26	5	Nebraska
71	Gary Brown	T	6-4	315	24	2	Georgia Tech
72	Earl Dotson	T	6-4	310	24	3	Texas A & I
73	Aaron Taylor	G	6-4	305	22	2	Notre Dame
75	Ken Ruettgers	T	6-6	292	33	11	Southern Cal.
76	Harry Galbreath	G	6-1	295	30	8	Tennessee
80	Charles Jordan	WR	5-10	183	25	3	Long Beach
81	Anthony Morgan	WR	6-1	200	27	5	Tennessee
82	Mark Ingram	WR	5-11	194	30	9	Michigan State
83	Jeff Thomason	TE	6-5	250	25	3	Oregon
85	Terry Mickens	WR	6-1	198	24	2	Florida A & M
86	Antonio Freeman	WR	6-1	187	23	R	Virginia Tech
87	Robert Brooks	WR	6-0	180	25	4	South Carolina
88	Keith Jackson	TE	6-2	258	30	8	Oklahoma
89	Mark Chmura	TE	6-5	250	26	4	Boston College
90	Darius Holland	DT	6-5	305	21	R	Colorado
91	Shannon Clavelle	DE	6-3	287	21	R	Colorado
92	Reggie White	DE	6-5	300	33	11	Tennessee
93	Gilbert Brown	NT	6-2	325	24	3	Kansas
94	Bob Kuberski	NT	6-5	300	24	1	Navy
96	Sean Jones	DE	6-7	283	32	12	Northeastern
97	Matt LaBounty	DE	6-4	278	26	3	Oregon
98	Gabe Wilkins	DT	6-5	310	24	2	Gardner-Webb
	PRACTICE SQUAD						
10	Mike McCoy	QB	6-4	204	23	R	Utah
20	Charlie Simmons	WR	6-3	210	22	R	Georgia-Tech
46	Reggie Holt	S	5-11	198	24	1	Wisconsin
56	Robert Bass	LB	6-1	239	24	2	Miami (Fla.)
58	Ronnie Woolfork	LB	6-3	254	24	1	Colorado
	INJURED RESERVE (OUT FOR SEASON)						
10	Ty Detmer	QB	6-0	194	28	4	Brigham Young
38	Brian Satterfield	FB	6-0	225	25	1	N. Alabama
48	Mike Bartrum	TE	6-5	243	25	2	Marshall
67	Paul Hutchins	T	6-5	330	25	3	Western Mich.
70	Jeff Miller	T	6-4	295	22	R	Mississippi

Bucs roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Exp.	College
1	Reggie Roby	P	6-3	253	34	13	Iowa
5	Michael Husted	K	6-0	195	25	3	Virginia
11	Casey Weldon	QB	6-1	206	26	4	Florida St.
12	Trent Dilfer	QB	6-4	235	23	2	Fresno St.
15	Todd Philcox	QB	6-4	225	29	5	Syracuse
21	Mike McGruder	CB	5-10	178	31	9	Kent
22	Thomas Everett	S	5-9	185	30	9	Baylor
23	Tony Bouie	S	5-10	187	23	R	Arizona
25	Melvin Johnson	S	6-0	191	23	R	Kentucky
26	Clifton Abraham	CB	5-9	184	23	R	Florida St.
28	Curtis Buckley	S	6-0	191	25	3	East Texas St.
29	Kenneth Gant	S	5-11	195	28	6	Albany St. (Ga.)
32	Errict Rhett	RB	5-11	211	24	2	Florida
35	Martin Mayhew	CB	5-8	178	30	8	Florida St.
37	Jerry Ellison	RB	5-10	198	23	1	Tenn.-Chatt.
38	Todd Scott	S	5-11	205	27	5	S.W. Lousiana
39	Charles Dimry	CB	6-0	176	29	8	UNLV
41	Bobby Joe Edmonds	RB	5-11	190	31	5	Arkansas
45	Tony Stargell	CB	5-11	186	29	6	Tennessee St.
47	John Lynch	S	6-2	210	24	3	Stanford
51	Lonnie Marts	LB	6-2	236	27	6	Tulane
52	Wardell Rouse	LB	6-2	235	23	R	Clemson
53	Ed Brady	LB	6-2	238	33	12	Illinois
54	Darnell Stephens	LB	5-11	243	22	R	Clemson
55	Derrick Brooks	LB	6-0	225	22	R	Florida St.
56	Hardy Nickerson	LB	6-2	229	30	9	California
60	Jim Pyne	G	6-2	282	23	2	Virginia Tech
61	Tony Mayberry	C	6-4	292	27	6	Wake Forest
62	Ian Beckles	G	6-1	304	28	6	Indiana
65	Stephen Ingram	T	6-4	311	24	R	Maryland
67	Mike Sullivan	C	6-3	292	27	4	Miami(Fla.)
69	Pete Pierson	T	6-5	295	24	1	Washington
70	Charles McRae	G	6-7	294	27	5	Tennessee
71	Santana Dotson	DT	6-5	276	25	4	Baylor
72	Chidi Ahanotu	DE	6-2	283	25	3	California
73	Brad Culpepper	DT	6-1	270	26	4	Florida
74	Paul Gruber	T	6-5	296	30	8	Wisconsin
75	Eric Curry	DE	6-5	270	25	3	Alabama
76	Scott Dill	T	6-5	295	29	8	Memphis
77	Mark Wheeler	DT	6-2	290	25	4	Texas A&M
80	Lawrence Dawsey	WR	6-0	192	28	5	Florida St.
81	Jackie Harris	TE	6-4	239	27	6	NE Louisiana
82	Alvin Harper	WR	6-4	218	27	5	Tennessee
83	Dave Moore	TE/FB	6-2	243	26	3	Pittsburgh
85	Courtney Hawkins	WR	5-9	183	25	4	Michigan St.
86	Tyji Armstrong	TE	6-4	277	25	4	Mississippi
87	Lamar Thomas	WR	6-2	173	25	3	Miami (Fla.)
88	Horace Copeland	WR	6-3	202	24	3	Miami (Fla.)
91	Herman Smith	DE	6-5	261	24	1	Portland St.
93	Demetrius DuBose	LB	6-1	235	24	3	Notre Dame
94	Toddrick McIntosh	DT	6-3	250	23	2	Florida St.
99	Warren Sapp	DT	6-2	281	22	R	Miami (Fla.)
	PRACTICE SQUAD						
30	Fred Lester	RB	6-1	244	24	1	Alabama A&M
57	Kerry Mock	LB	6-1	232	22	R	North Carolina
68	Joel Crisman	G	6-5	300	24	1	USC
	INJURED RESERVE						
24	Jerry Wilson	CB	5-10	184	22	R	Southern
27	Barney Bussey	S	6-0	210	33	10	S. Carolina St.
44	John Booty	S	6-0	185	30	8	TCU
95	Keith Powe	DE	6-3	265	26	2	UTEP

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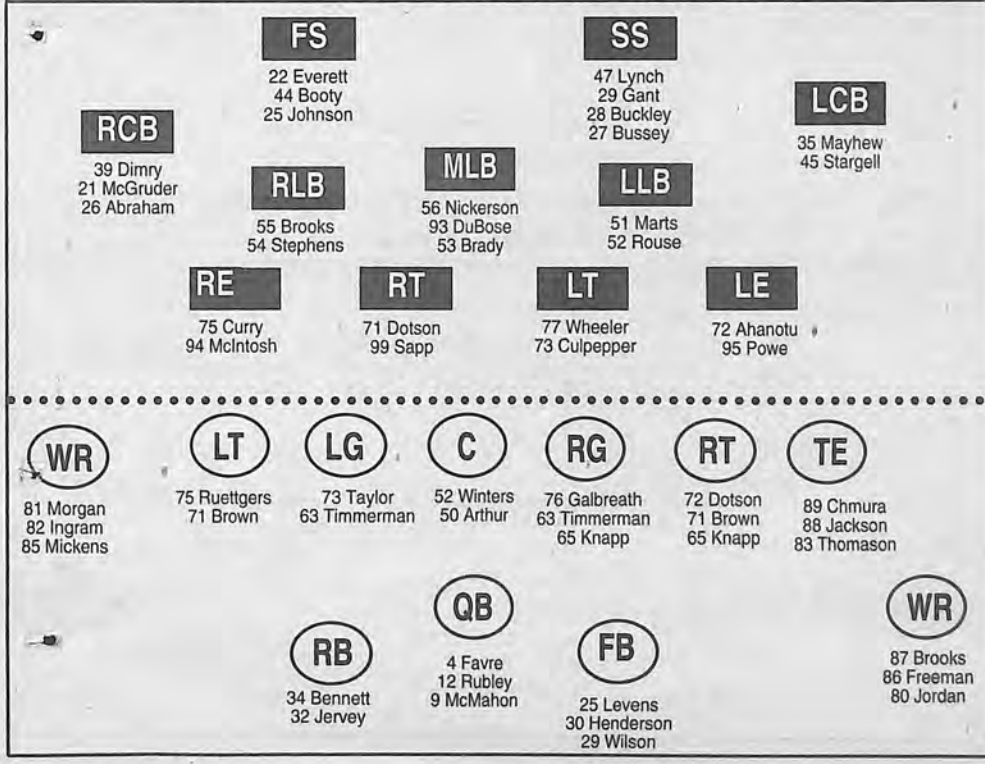
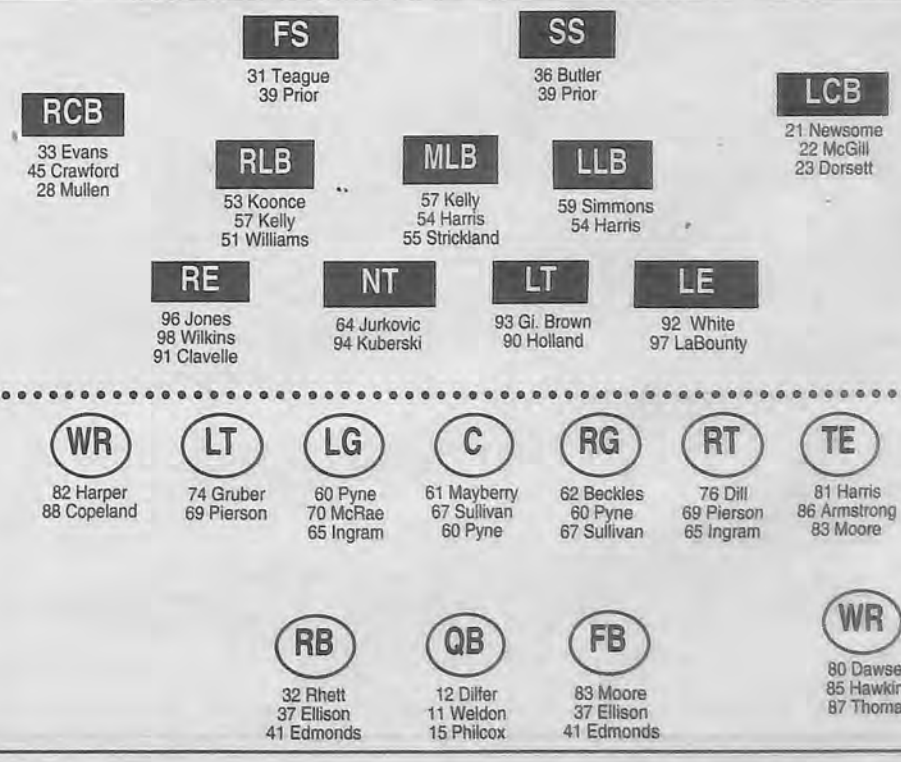
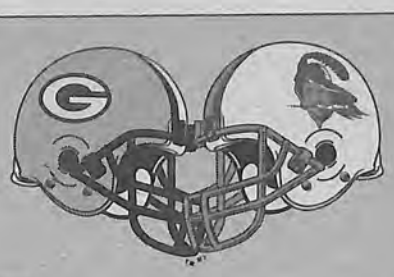


WHEN THE BUCS HAVE THE BALL





Facts 'n' Stats

WHEN
Sunday, Dec. 10, 1995
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Packer Radio Network with Jim Irwin, Max McGee, Larry McCarren
THE SERIES
Packers lead Bucs 20-12-1.
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at Packers 35
Buccaneers 13-
DID YOU KNOW?

- There has been one tie in the series in a game played at Tampa Stadium in 1980. It was a game which saw Packer quarterback Lynn Dickey pass for 418 yards, the total remains a Green Bay team record.
- Packers coach Mike Holmgren is 19-12-0 in the NFC Central since his 1992 arrival in Green Bay. Holmgren is 6-1 against Tampa Bay.

Packers have to keep eye on Harris

By Laura Veras Marran

Quarterback Trent Dilfer may have had a career day against Green Bay in Lambeau Field, but it didn't do the Buccaneers much good. Dilfer's 28-of-49 for 324-yard performance added up to just 13 points and his eighth-straight game without a touchdown pass as the Packers beat the Bucs 35-13 on Nov. 26.

In fact, the Bucs' offense was barely up to its 13-point production. The lone TD, a one-yard run by Errict Rhett, followed a questionable pass interference call on third down. The second Michael Husted field goal, Tampa's only score in the second half, was a 48-yarder set up by an illegal substitution call vs. Green Bay as the Bucs prepared to punt from the Packers' 36.

That doesn't mean the Packers plan to let Dilfer stage a repeat performance this weekend. In order to prevent it, Green Bay will have to contain former comrade Jackie Harris. The sixth-year tight end caught a career-high 10 passes for 122 yards in the first meeting.

"They dropped off on Jackie and he made some good plays," Dilfer said. In other areas, the Packer defense couldn't do much better than an encore of their own. A great performance from linebacker Joe Kelly, in his first start as a Packer, was the key to silencing Rhett.

"Green Bay had a mindset to stop the run, and they did it," Dilfer said. "(Joe) Kelly scraped off the blocks and the others made the hit. Errict couldn't move. We threw the ball to set up the run, but then couldn't do it."

By the numbers: Through Week 13, Tampa remained last among NFC offenses with 278.2 yards per game ... Dilfer is last in NFL quarterback ranking at 62.6 ... Rhett's minus-1 yard day vs. the Packers is fifth among the conference's rushers.

Photo by Mark A. Wallenfang
Trent Dilfer passed for 324 yards against the Packers Nov. 26

Defense: The Packers' challenge of slowing Dilfer seems like a breeze compared to what the Bucs face in trying to stop Brett Favre the second time around.

Favre rolled up 267 yards on 16-of-24 attempts and three TDs with no interceptions. That was just another chapter in Favre's dominance over Tampa in his four years with the Pack.

Last year in Tampa for the regular season finale, Favre tuned up for the playoffs with a 24-of-26 for 291-yard day with three TDs as the Packers won 34-19. In the first meeting of '94, Favre was a phenomenal 30-of-39 for 306 yards, three TDs and no interceptions.

Tampa's defense also struggled against the Packers ground game two weeks ago. Edgar Bennett averaged 4.3 yards a carry for the Packers and dominated a 90-yard TD drive late in the game which ate 6:16 by using the rush almost exclusively.

The Bucs' defensive leader, linebacker Hardy Nickerson, may have a chip on his shoulder entering Sunday's game. Nickerson was ejected from the Bucs' loss at Lambeau.

Coach Sam Wyche said he totally disagreed with the call against Nickerson: "There should have been offsetting penalties, but not thrown out. No one got hurt. I asked the officials to take a long look at that. When Hardy went out, the game was over."

Special teams: Reggie Roby struggled against the Packers in the first meeting, averaging 34.6 yards and contributing to Green Bay's good field position throughout, but he fares better at home.

Through Week 13, place-kicker Michael Husted has made 14 of 21 field goal attempts and all 20 PATs.

Etc.: The Bucs recently signed receiver-kick returner Marvin Marshall to the team's practice squad. Marshall, a South Carolina State product was originally signed by the Indianapolis Colts.

Laura Veras Marran covers the Packers for the Kenosha News.

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Packers Buc odds for win

Late field goal pushes Pack to victory

By Brett Christopherson

In the course of a football season, there is usually one specific moment, whether it be a certain play or even a game, which defines or symbolizes the characteristic and makeup of a football team.

Of course, in the long, storied history of the Green Bay Packers, there have been many, to say the least, of those so-called moments.

For example, the 1967 NFL championship game, better known as the Ice Bowl, between the Packers and the Dallas Cowboys provided fans with a glimpse of the toughness and immense pride Green Bay's teams of that era possessed when Bart Starr snuck into the end zone for a title-clinching touchdown with time running out to give the Pack their record-setting third straight world championship.

And what Packer fanatic could forget Brett Favre's thrilling never-say-die touchdown dive with time winding down late last season, propelling Green Bay back into the playoffs for the second year in a row against the Atlanta Falcons in Green Bay's final game in Milwaukee?

But perhaps more than any other season, the 1989 campaign featured its share, and then some, of "Majikal" moments such as the famed "Instant Replay" game against the Chicago Bears and the incredible comeback victory over the New Orleans Saints, a 35-34 nail-biter at Lambeau Field.

However, it was during Green Bay's final drive in a game against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers late in that season, which, perhaps, best symbolized the incredible toughness and fierce desire to win that particular team held within.

Trailing 16-14 with 1:29 left and the ball on their own 29, things didn't look too promising for the Packers. Add to that a tough Buccaneer defense which had been giving Green Bay fits the entire afternoon, as well as a single timeout remaining, and the game simply appeared to be out of reach.

But these were the '89 Green Bay Packers, a team which had already squeaked out a trio of one-point victories and had earned a reputation of making something out of nothing. Heck, the team's quarterback, Don Majkowski, was given the nickname "Majik" based on the amazing plays he pulled out of his hat which ultimately led to wins.

Still, the odds of Green Bay pulling this one out were about as great as Lambeau Field someday hosting the Super Bowl. It just wasn't going to happen. Or was it?

"Hell, yeah," Majkowski said when asked if he thought Green Bay stood a chance. "We've been doing that all year, you know. I felt very confident."

The drive began with a promising nine-yard crossing pass from Majkowski to Sterling Sharpe followed with a one-yard run by Majik to secure the first down.

On the next play, Majkowski hit running back Herman Fontenot with an 11-yard pass, putting the ball on Green Bay's 40 with 1:14 left.

However, it appeared the Packers' luck finally ran out with a sack and three straight incompletions, giving the ball back to the Buccaneers and no chance at victory – until everyone noticed a yellow flag on the green grass of Tampa Stadium.

Buccaneer defensive tackle Shawn Lee was penalized five yards for illegal hands to the face on guard Rich Moran. More importantly, however, was the fact the penalty resulted in an automatic first down for the Packers and gave them new life.

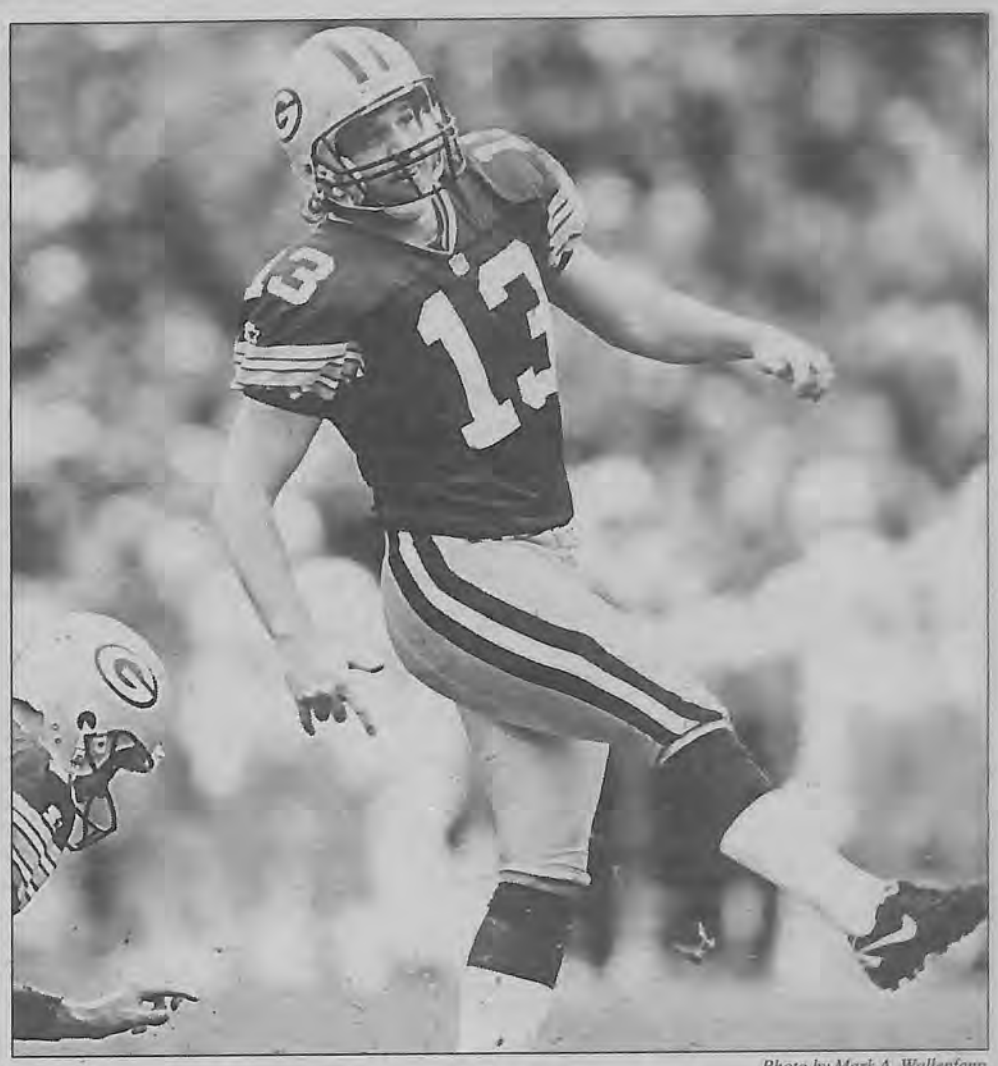

Photo by Mark A. Wallenfang

Chris Jacke has been consistent for the Packers ever since his rookie season when he booted a 47-yard field goal as the Packers beat the Bucs 17-16.

"He put his hands underneath my helmet and pushed up into my neck," Moran explained. "It's illegal as hell, and it's one of those things that defensive linemen do."

Green Bay didn't let the early Christmas present go to waste and immediately moved the ball down to the Tampa 46 with only 18 seconds remaining, facing a second and 10 situation.

"I needed a big play right then and there to get us in field goal range," Majkowski said.

Majik delivered a big one when he hit Carl Bland for 17 yards before being tackled inbounds with the clock ticking and no timeouts to use.

Quickly, Majkowski assembled everyone to the line of scrimmage, took the snap from center and slammed the ball to the ground, stopping the clock with just one second left, and leaving rookie kicker Chris Jacke with a 47-yard field goal attempt to win the game. The Bucs then used a timeout in hopes of rattling Jacke.

"Everybody was excited," coach Lindy Infante said. "The adrenalin was jumping."

And as he has done his entire career, the cool, calm and collected Jacke drilled the 47-yarder to give Green Bay the improbable and incredible 17-16 win.

"He's Mr. Ice," center and long-snapper Blair Bush said. "He just stood out there like it was a Sunday stroll."

Brett Christopherson is a freelance writer from Menasha.

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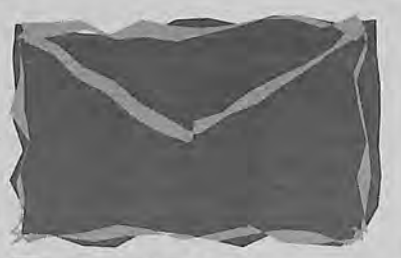

letters to the editor

Those are our boys!

Dear Packer Report,

As a lifelong Packer backer, I would like to express my displeasure at the tone of Ron Ziebell's letter ("Shocked by losses" Nov. 13).

Mister Ziebell has obviously never lived in Green Bay. If he had, he would realize that the Packers are winners, whether they win the game or not, simply because they are "The Pack." I was born and raised in Green Bay, so I know whereof I speak. (Not that you have to live in G.B. to be a true Packer fan, but sometimes it helps!)

Also, Mister Ziebell, when was the last time you took a snap in the NFL? At which college did you coach? I used to think that way for a long time, that I could do a better job of coaching than Starr, Gregg, or Infante. Eventually, I came to realize that, hey, these guys are not stupid! They got where they are by being good at their job.

As far as the Packers losing a couple of games? BIG DEAL! Remember the late '70s, early '80s? Those were the days when the Pack finishing as a fair .500 team was not only possible but expected! Now they have a few winning seasons, and suddenly all the armchair quarterbacks come out of the woodwork. Remember folks, even San Fran and Dallas lose games.

I would like to close this letter with a simple idea – let the men play the game. Just enjoy the Packers and always remember: Those are our boys out there, and win or lose, they will always be our boys!

Jon F. Sandoval

Covington, Ga.

Look at bright side

Dear Ray and Todd,

Would you let me address the harsh Packer critics who continue to write in. These people need some perspective. In a single game only one team can win. In a division race only one in five can win. Only one team in 30 can be the Super Bowl champion. Add to these free agency and a salary cap and the competition intensifies.

I've just finished reading Jerry Kramer's instant replay. It's amazing how close, win or lose, the games were in that 1967 season. They came down to emotion and mental preparedness. Is this not right, Ray? This is what separates the teams, now and then.

We're fans and we want the best, but lashing out at every aspect of the Packer organization is for the Bear fans. These bashing letters being printed are all emotion with no mental preparedness. Come on Packer fans, we can do better! Be more positive. I remember crying after a Bears game loss in 1990. We've come a long ways. Here is how:

- five straight wins over the Bears
- receiver routes of more than 3 to 4 yards
- unstoppable screens
- stupid QB plays declining weekly
- fumbles minimized
- Mike Holmgren in 25-degree weather without a stocking cap and scarf and the look of fear of frostbite. (coat is actually unzipped)
- confidence in play calling (it's getting better)
- I'm having a whale of a season!

Shameful that I have not read "Instant Replay" years ago.

Melted Cheesehead in Fla.,
David J. Kramer
Tampa, Fla.

Packerland or bust

Dear Packer Report,

I have been a transplanted Packer fan since the day I was born. Life began in the heart of Bear country, Davenport, Iowa, in 1967. My parents then packed up the family and moved us to the "Cornhusker" state. Finally, I did my college studies in Bronco country. The only way for me to escape was to join the military; however, bad went to worse and I was stationed in the Lone Star State! Needless to say, I want out!

In February, I will be closing the military chapter of my life and have the unique opportunity to relocate to just about anywhere I want. My wife and I have spent endless hours trying to decide where we would like to settle and Wisconsin is on the top of our list. It would be a dream come true for me to move up to Packer Country and raise my family.

As a reference, I am a college graduate with a B.A. in psychology. I've held out for years waiting for the Packers to draft me, but have come to the realization that this will probably not happen. My wife is also a college graduate and has worked in the legal field for several years. She is currently employed as a legal assistant/paralegal. We have a 2-year-old Packer fan we like to call our daughter and we're expecting another in February.

If anyone out there is interested in helping our family or has any information you feel could be useful, please write or call us at:

John and Kelly LePetit
2406 Royal Crest Circle
Kileen, Texas 76542
(817) 554-2844

Potty-mouth refs

Dear Editor,

Our family enjoys watching the Green Bay Packers on FOX. We usually like to have our boys watch with us. But on Sunday, Nov. 26, while we were watching the Packers play Tampa Bay, we were shocked and offended to hear some foul language coming from the official on the field. We noticed five separate times that, just before a play was run towards him, #103 used profanity as he tried to get out of the way. This came over the airwaves loud and clear.

We did not appeciate this because our family does not use that type of language and we are trying to teach our sons that this type of language does not please the Lord Jesus Christ.

This is supposed to be family programming and four young boys do not need to be hearing that type of language – especially while watching the home team on TV. We hope someone will take it on themselves to do something to make sure it never happens again. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Gerald and Conni Townsend
Wausaukee, Wis.

P.S. – We have voiced our feelings to the local FOX network and to the Green Bay Packers, Inc.

Requirements

Letters to the Packer Report are welcome, but must be limited to 350 words. They must be signed with a name, address and phone number. The Packer Report reserves the right to reject or edit letters. Writers are limited to one letter each 30 days. Typed letters can be faxed to (414) 497-6519. or send letters by conventional mail to:

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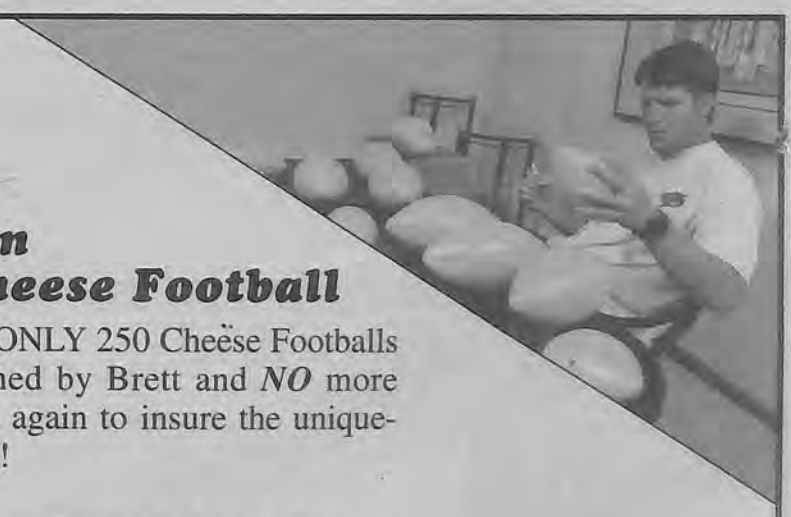
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Hubby bleeds green and gold

I am writing to you about my husband Phil, who I know is a Super Fan.

He was born and raised in Wisconsin. His obsession with the Packers began at the age of 3 when he watched the Ice Bowl game with his brothers.

He now lives in northern Iowa, stuck in the middle of Vikingland. But he still remains a die-hard fan. We have our own Packerland. Our house is painted green and gold with Packer signs and flags. Inside, the game room and bathroom look like a Packer shrine.

We also have a minivan painted green and gold with "PACKVAN" license plates and Fuzzy Thurston's autograph on the hood. Every year on our Green Bay vacation we drive it through Vikingland! The trip there is an adventure in itself!

"Super Fan"

Here's your chance to tell everyone how big of a Packers fan you really are and get your picture in the *Packer Report*. In 250 words or less, describe why you root for the Packers and how long you've been a fan. Include any unique Packers-related story or adventure. Include a non-returnable photo and sent to:

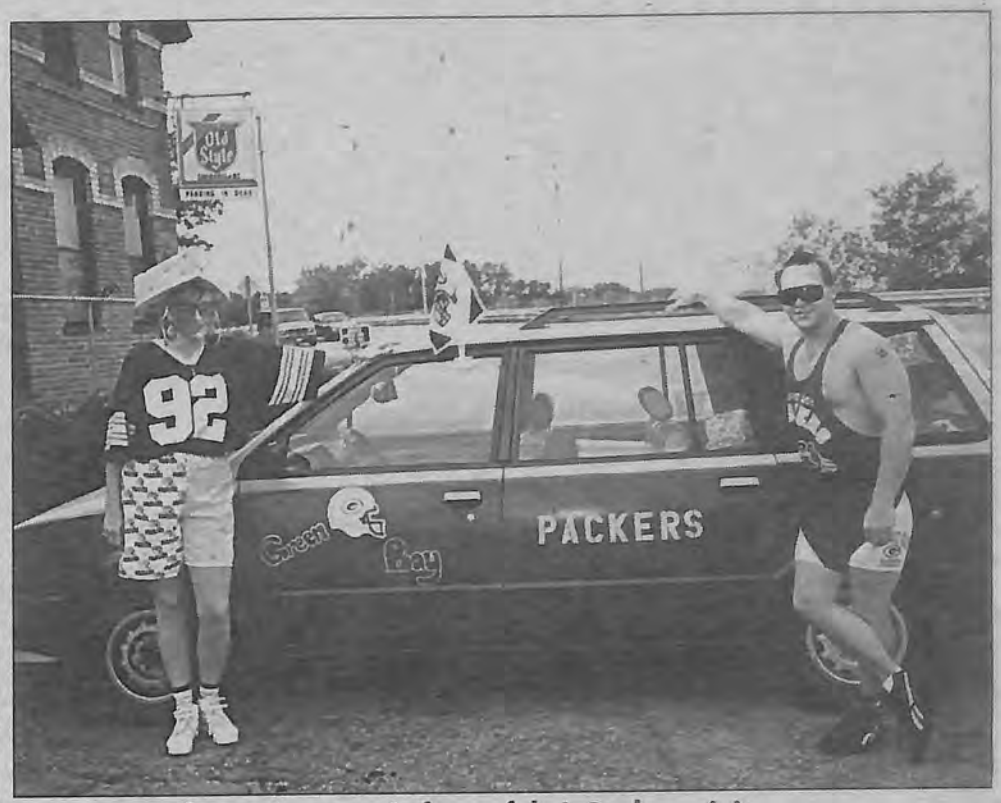
PACKER REPORT
"Super Fan"
P.O. Box 10662
Green Bay, WI 54307

My husband also named our nine cats after the Packer players. We have Tootie (a fat Siamese), Brett (a high-strung tabby), Terrell (the black sheep of the family), Fuzzy, Sterling, Max, etc. And when I was expecting, we picked out Vince (after Lombardi) for a boy's name.

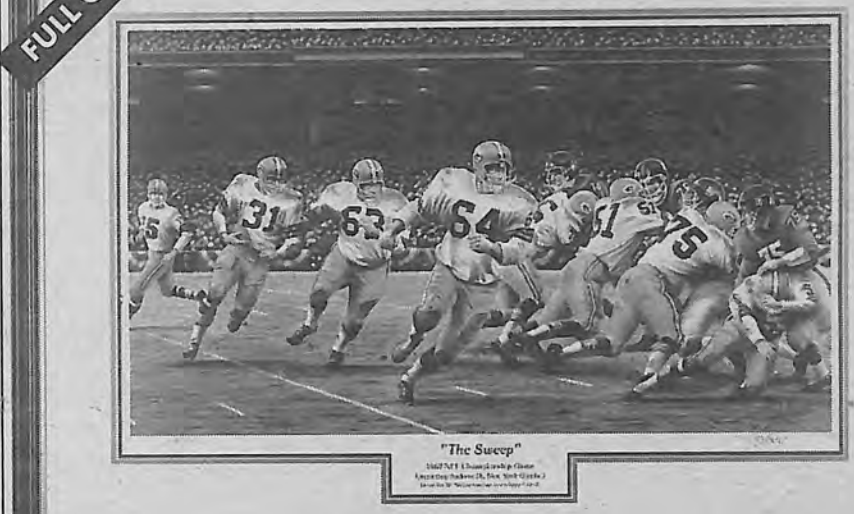
We also receive any and all publications about the Packers. He's been receiving the *Packer Report* since he was 14 years old. He's so addicted to the Packers that he wants to get a tattoo on our next trip to Green Bay.

He truly bleeds green and gold, and I do too since I'm a cheesehead by marriage.

Sandy Gutting
Geneva, Iowa



Phil and Sandy Gutting pose in front of their Packer minivan.



"The Sweep"

By Tim Spransy

The print image of "The Sweep" captures a special moment in time from the 1962 Championship game against the New York Giants. The Packers won the game 16-7. Artist, Tim Spransy captures the energy of the Packer sweep in this beautiful limited edition print. Each print is signed and numbered and comes with a certificate of authenticity.

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Fantasy camp set for June

The Green Bay Experience Fantasy Football Camp is scheduled for June 9-13, 1996, at Lambeau Field.

Packer greats, including Tony Canadeo, Willie Davis, Bart Starr, Jan Stenerud, Herb Adderley, Willie Wood, Carroll Dale, Ken Bowman, Boyd Dowler, Jerry Kramer, Elijah Pitts and Fuzzy Thurston will be in the camp lineup.

The price of $3,295 includes hotel accommodations, all meals, a celebrity golf tournament and many once-in-a-lifetime football opportunities. Participants also will receive a playbook with famous Packer plays, a Packer jersey with their name and number on it, limited edition football cards with their picture on them, a team photograph and a charter lifetime membership in the Packer Hall of Fame.

Dress is casual. Bring astro turf or soccer shoes for the two practice sessions on a natural grass field. No football cleats will be allowed. There will be no contact at the practice sessions which will include running, passing, receiving and kicking.

For a complete brochure, write to: The Green Bay Experience, Inc., P.O. Box 700, Green Bay, WI 54305-0700. For reservations and information, call 1-800-945-7102. When you sign up, you will receive a video tape showing some of the highlights of last year's camp.

FAN CLUB CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	TIME	TICKET PRICE
Dec. 10	*Green Bay Packers at Tampa* **Tailgate**	6 PM to 7:30PM	$12 per person / in advance
Dec. 15	**Packer Fans Get-together**, *Caddyshack, 920 Poydras*	4 PM to ?????	
Dec. 16	*Green Bay Packers at New Orleans* **Tailgate** *at Superdome by gate C*	1 PM to 2:30PM	$22 per person
Dec. 23	**Packer Eve Party** *at "The Bar" in Green Bay. Kidd Gloves to play*	9 PM band starts	$5 includes 1 beverage ticket
Dec. 24	*Pittsburgh Steelers at Green Bay* **Tailgate**	10 AM to 11:30AM	Members Free / $10 general public
Feb. 4	**PRO BOWL TRIP**	**Diff. departure times**	**Call (800) 861-5585**

All America's Pack tailgate parties feature unlimited food and beverages plus exciting entertainment. Tailgate parties will be in a new location at Lambeau Field on the East side of the stadium underneath the Green Bay Packer sign. Join us at the fan club Packer Eve Parties held the night before the game at "The Bar" on Lime Kiln Road. Doors open at 8 PM, entertainment, field goal kicking contest and more. Home game tailgate tickets can be purchased at the gate the day of the game, away tailgate tickets can be purchased thru America's Pack at (414) 497-6500 ask for Debbie. For more information on any event call us at America's Pack. **America's Pack would like to thank our members for your continued support to America's Pack and the Green Bay Packers, THANK YOU!**

PACKER WANT ADS

If there is a Packer item you've got to get your hands on; if you want to find a place to watch your favorites or if you can help out fellow diehards, your request or offer will be printed free of charge on a space-available basis. We do not run ticket ads or list sports bars' locations.

All ads must be mailed to: Want Ads, Packer Report, P.O. Box 9605, Green Bay, WI 54308-9605. Or fax: (414) 465-6961.

I AM LOOKING for the following Packer Yearbooks in excellent to mint condition: 1960 thru 1968, 1970, 72, 73; 1977 thru 1980, 1983; 1989 thru 1992. Please call Jeff at (810) 373-5612.

WANTED: The Ice Bowl on VCR cassette. Please contact me, Bill Strichler, P.O. Box 114, Tiltonsville, OH 43963, 614-859-4576.

NEEDED: Bar to watch Packers near Miami Intl. Airport. Call Donn at 312-236-0606 or 706-485-8628.

CAN ANYONE put us in touch with someone who taped the Packer/Buccaneer game and would be willing to make a copy for us (we will send $ for tape and postage). Call 916-288-0422 or fax to 916-288-0603 Steve and Pat, West Coast Cheeseheads.

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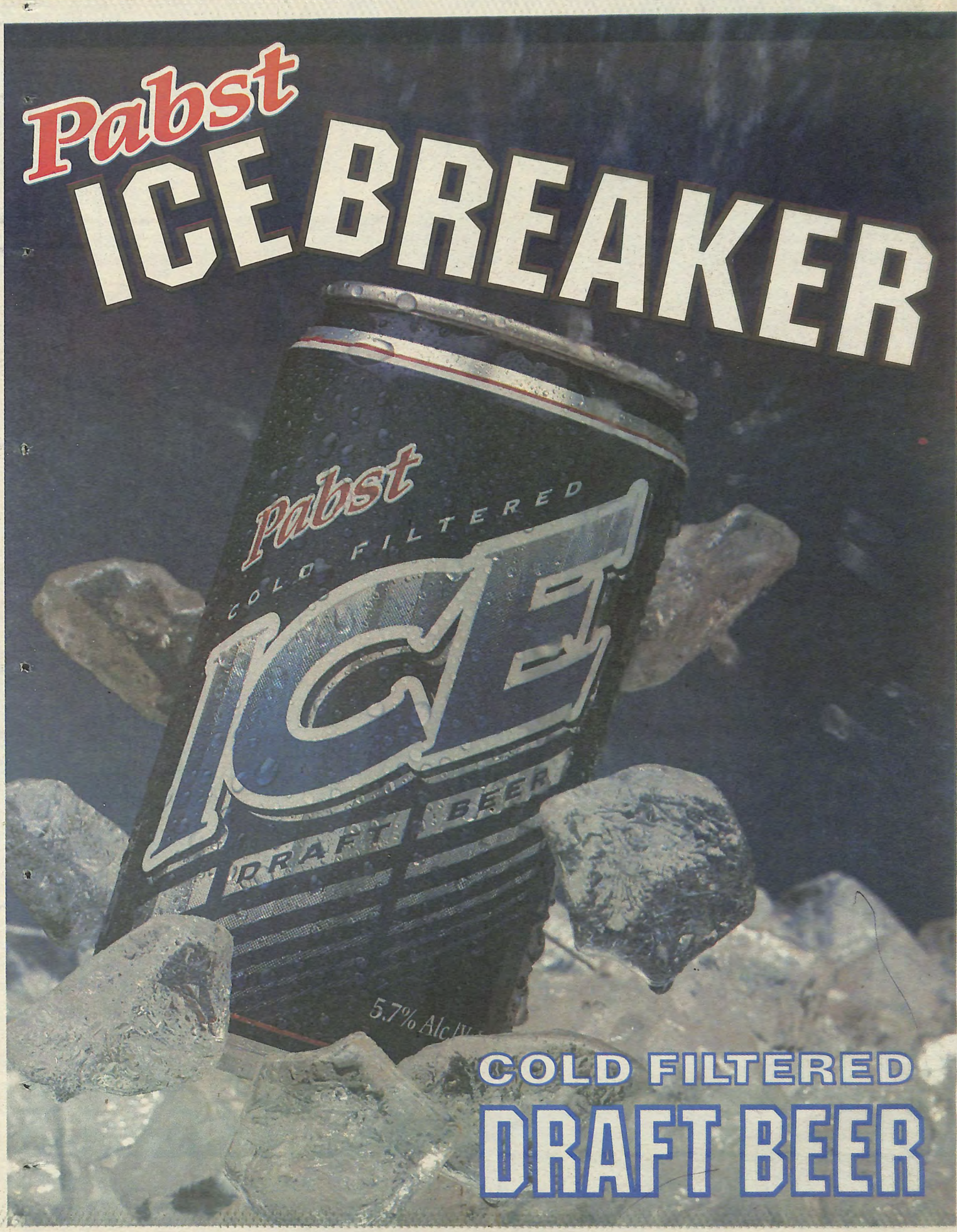
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